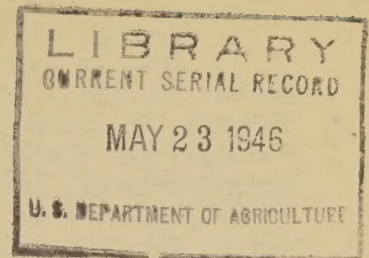


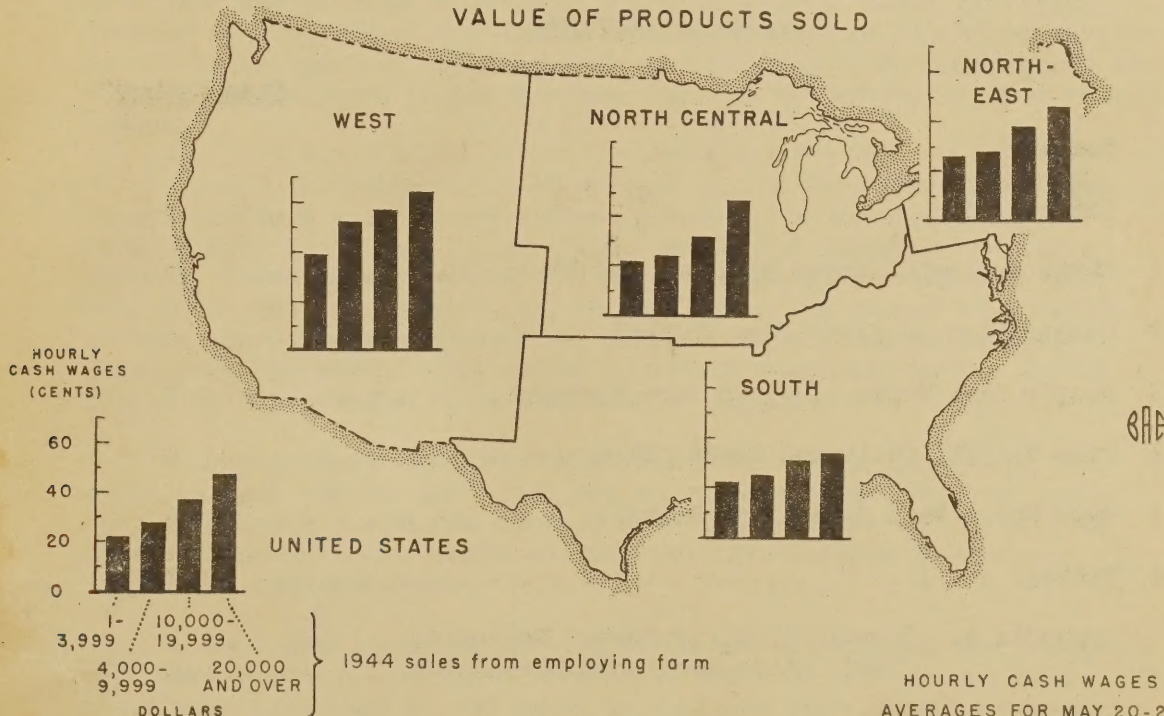
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS



*WAGES AND  
WAGE RATES of*  
**HIRED  
FARM WORKERS,**  
United States and Major Regions,  
May 1945

HOURLY CASH WAGES OF REGULAR HIRED FARM  
WORKERS ON FARMS CLASSIFIED BY 1944  
VALUE OF PRODUCTS SOLD



SURVEY OF WAGES AND WAGE RATES IN AGRICULTURE, REPORT NUMBER 7

February 1946

WASHINGTON, D.C.



## PREFATORY NOTE

This is the seventh of a series of reports to be issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics presenting results secured from new enumerative sample surveys of farm wages and farm wage rates. The surveys were planned and conducted under the general direction of Conrad Taeuber, Office of the Chief, by a Bureau-wide Committee with Louis J. Ducoff as chairman. Members of the Wage Project Committee are as follows: Glen T. Barton, Emerson M. Brooks, Charles F. Cannell, Charles A. Gibbons, Margaret Jarman Hagood, Roger F. Hale, Earl E. Houseman, Barbara B. Reagan. The State Agricultural Statisticians cooperated in conducting the field operations of the surveys.

The surveys include collection of information on wages and wage rates of all workers hired on a national sample of 20,000 farms during three specified weeks during the year. This report presents the information obtained in the second of the national surveys which covered the week of May 20-26, 1945. In addition to reports on the national surveys, other reports are being issued on wages of seasonal labor in special crop areas of various States.

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WAGES AND WAGE RATES OF HIRED FARM WORKERS, UNITED STATES AND  
MAJOR REGIONS, MAY 1945

Summary

Average cash farm wages rose from 35 cents to 37 cents per hour between March and May 1945 and employment of hired farm workers increased by 43 percent, as shown by national enumerative surveys made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The number of farmers using hired labor increased from 715,000 in March to 914,000 in May, while hired workers increased from 1,633,000 to 2,331,000. Farmers who employed hired workers averaged 4.1 hired workers per farm in the West in May but only 1.4 in the North Central States. The 125,000 farms in the United States which employed 4 or more wage hands during the week of May 20-26 had 53 percent of all the hired workers in the country.

The number of seasonal workers (those expected to be employed by farmers for less than 6 months during the year) doubled between March and May to reach a level of 1,456,000. The number of regular workers remained about the same. Seventy percent of all hired workers in the South and West were seasonal workers in May, but only about one-third of the workers in the Northeast and North Central regions were seasonal.

Nearly a fourth of hired workers in the South were women and about one-tenth in the West. There were 385,000 women working as hired laborers on farms in May 1945. While the number of children under 14 years of age working for wages increased greatly over March, they still numbered only 66,000 in May 1945. The number of nonwhite workers increased at a faster rate than white workers in regions other than the South. The number of nonwhite workers in the United States in May amounted to approximately 720,000.

Average cash wages of hired farm workers increased by 2 to 6 cents an hour between March and May in regions other than the South. The decrease of 3 cents an hour in the South was due to the drop in wages of nonwhite and female workers and the increase in the proportion of female workers.

Farms with gross sales of \$20,000 and over during the preceding year were paying their hired workers 49 cents an hour in May 1945, while those with less than \$1,500 sales were paying only 24 cents an hour. Farmers employing greater numbers of workers also paid higher wages than those with smaller numbers. Regular workers on farms with 4 or more workers averaged higher weekly wages than regular workers on farms with fewer than 4 workers - from 7 percent higher in the West to 62 percent higher in the North Central region.



The average length of work-day for hired farm workers in the United States increased from 9.1 to 9.7 hours between March and May. However, the increase in part-week jobs as the season advanced was reflected in a smaller average number of days worked per week especially by female workers. The average number of hours worked per week was 45, the same as in March.

In the North Central and Northeast, sons, daughters and other persons related to the farm operator made up about one-fourth of all hired farm workers in both March and May. They made less in cash wages on an hourly, daily, or weekly basis than unrelated workers although they put in more hours per week. In many cases, the value of room and meals and other home privileges afforded by the operator probably offset this differential.

The predominant type of rate paid in May was the same for each region that it was in March: week rates in the Northeast, month rates in the North Central, day rates in the South, and hour rates in the West. The main increases from March to May were more piece rates in the Northeast, more week rates in the North Central, more day rates in the South, and more piece rates in the West.

Month rates with and without meals rose approximately 10 percent between March and May in the country as a whole, and week rates without meals rose nearly 20 percent. On the other hand, hour rates declined by 9 percent. Most regions showed the same directions of change in these rates. Day rates showed increases in some regions and decreases in other regions.

There were marked differences in the hourly and weekly cash earnings of workers paid different types of rates in May 1945. Of rates without meals, day rates yielded the lowest hourly and weekly cash wages in every region except the Northeast. Hourly rates provided the highest hourly earnings in the North Central and West. Weekly rates yielded the highest weekly wages in the Northeast and South, and monthly rates the highest weekly cash earnings in the North Central and West.

Negro women working for day rates in the South received an average of \$1.85 per day compared with \$2.40 for Negro men. White women averaged \$2.50 per day compared with \$2.80 for white men. In the West, also, women receiving day rates averaged only \$3.90 compared with \$4.50 for men.

A description of the method of making these surveys, of the reliability of the estimates, and of their comparability with other data is given in Appendixes A and B.



## INTRODUCTION

What this Report is About.-Each year there is repeated in regular rhythm the seasonal pattern of work on the Nation's farms. With the onset of spring there begins a succession of activities which result in a rapid increase in the number of farm workers, both family and hired workers. This is a report primarily about the economic arrangements that farmers make as the season progresses in providing themselves with the labor they hire. It deals especially with the wages farmers pay and the number and kinds of people who work for wages on farms; it also tells about the farms on which hired help is used - a sector of agriculture which is of great importance in our commercial farm production.

An earlier report presented the picture for the third week in March, typical of the early spring situation. <sup>1/</sup> In this report, which is based on facts gathered in the second of a series of Nation-wide enumerative sample surveys made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the scene shifts to a week two months later. By that time 200,000 more farmers were hiring labor than during the week in March and the number of workers hired increased by 700,000 to a total of 2,331,000. Before these surveys no information on a Nation-wide basis has been available on the number of farmers using hired labor in the different seasons of a year and on the distribution of farms according to the number of workers hired. These seasonal changes are accompanied by other basic changes in the labor supply sources that are tapped, the kind of workers employed, the duration of their employment and the wage arrangements made.

### 1. FARMS EMPLOYING HIRED WORKERS, MAY 20-26, 1945

Sharp Increase During Spring.-The number of farms employing hired workers increased by 28 percent and the number of hired farm workers by 43 percent between March and May 1945. No other major industry in the United States shows such marked seasonality as agriculture in the number of establishments employing workers and the number of workers hired. The number of farmers with hired labor increased from 715,000 to 914,000 from the week of March 18-24 to the week of May 20-26 for the country as a whole, while the number of hired farm workers increased from 1,633,000 to 2,331,000.

Greatest Rise in West and South.-The number of farmers hiring workers increased most in the South and West, 42 percent and 37 percent.

<sup>1/</sup> "Wages and Wage Rates of Hired Farm Workers, United States and Major Regions, March 1945," Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, October 1945.



In these regions, farm activities are at a more advanced stage during May than in the North. The number of hired workers employed also increased by more than 50 percent in each of these regions during the 2 months. As a result, 76 percent of all the hired farm workers in the country were employed in the South and West in the latter part of May, as compared with 70 percent in March.

On farms which use hired labor in May, those in the West and the South had more workers on the average than in the North. This is partly due to large use of hand labor in the production of fruits, vegetables and cotton in these regions. In addition, farm labor is relatively cheap in the South and is used in a high ratio to other production resources. In the West there are relatively more large-scale farms. There were on the average 3.0 hired laborers per employing farmer in the South and 4.1 in the West. These regions contrast sharply with the northern regions where farms operated primarily by family labor predominate even among farms important in commercial production. Farmers who hired labor averaged only 1.4 hired workers in the North Central States and 1.9 in the Northeast.

Hired Farm Workers are Concentrated on Large Farms.-Three-fifths of the farms reporting hired workers in May 1945 had only one hired worker each. These employers had less than one-fourth of the Nation's hired farm workers. The larger employers - those with 4 or more workers - numbered only 125,000 or 14 percent of all farmer-employers, but they had 53 percent of all hired workers employed during the survey week. The concentration of hired workers on a small proportion of the hiring farms was as great in May as in March. Thus, for example, the top 10 percent of the farms hiring labor employed about 50 percent of all hired farm workers both in March and in May 1945.

Low-Income Farmers Hire Labor Mainly in South.-In areas outside of the South, only a tenth or less of the farmers who hired workers in May 1945 had grossed less than \$1,500 the previous year. Nearly 40 percent of the Southern farmers with hired labor in May reported that they received less than \$1,500 for products sold or traded from the farm in 1944. These low-income farmers hired nearly 30 percent of the farm wage workers in the South and averaged 1.8 hired workers per farm in May. Over 90 percent of the workers hired on these farms were seasonal workers.

The greatest concentration of hired workers on large farms was in the West, where 58 percent of all hired workers were employed on farms reporting \$10,000 or more value of products sold or traded in 1944. The percentages of all hired workers employed on farms in this value group in the other regions were 43 in the Northeast, 26 in the South and 25 in the North Central States.

## 2. COMPOSITION OF HIRED FARM WORKERS, MAY 20-26, 1945

Seasonal Workers Doubled in Two Months.-The number of hired farm workers to be employed for less than 6 months during the year by the



reporting farmer more than doubled between March and May. In May, 1,456,000 seasonal hired workers were reported who made up 62 percent of the total, while in March only 44 percent of the hired workers were seasonal. The number of regular workers - those to be employed on the reporting farm for 6 months or more during the year - showed little net change during the two months.

The proportion of seasonal workers increased in all regions, as farmers employed workers for short-time jobs. In the South and West, where the season was more advanced in May, about 70 percent of all hired workers were to be employed on the reporting farm for less than 6 months of the year. In the Northeast and North Central, only about one-third of the hired workers were seasonal laborers. These Northern regions contrast sharply with the South and West in the length of employment afforded their hired workers during the course of a year. Forty-seven percent of the workers in the Northeast and 45 percent in the North Central were year-round workers whom the farmer expected to employ for 300 days or more during the year. The proportion of year-round workers was only 10 percent in the South and 16 percent in the West.

Many More Women Working.-Women and children become increasingly important as hired farm workers in the summer and fall. The number of women hired farm workers in May was 385,000 -  $2 \frac{2}{3}$  times as large as in March. As in March the majority of these women were nonwhite. For the country as a whole women made up a sixth of the 2.3 million hired farm laborers during the survey week, while in March they represented less than a tenth of the 1.6 million hired farm workers. Some wives and daughters who did some unpaid work before the season got under way were reported as paid workers on the home farm in May. Other women from farm and nonfarm households accepted seasonal farm jobs.

In March the South was the only region with an appreciable number of women hired farm workers. By May women in both the South and the West had increased until they represented 23 percent of the workers in the South and 11 percent in the West. In the South the increase in women workers was the largest among Negro women, although the number of white women workers doubled from March to May. In May three-fourths of the women workers in the South were Negroes. In the West there was an increase in nonwhite women laborers, but the more important increase in hired workers was among Mexican and other white women.

The percentage increase from March to May in hired farm workers under 18 years of age was not as great as the increase in all female workers. Workers under 18 more than doubled from March to May. However, there was a much greater percentage increase in children under 14. In March only about 17,000 children under 14 were working while in May about 66,000 of the hired farm workers were under 14. As in March, most of the hired workers under 18 and most of the children under 14 were in the South. Boys made up the majority of the workers under 18 years of age.

More Rapid Seasonal Increase in Nonwhite Workers Outside of South.-The numbers of nonwhite farm workers outside of the South is



small, but they increased three-fold in the West and more than doubled in the Northeast and North Central regions between March and May. Most of this increase was due to increased employment of seasonal workers in special crop areas. The increase in the Northeast was chiefly due to Negroes who migrate along the Eastern coast up to the special crop areas of New Jersey. The nonwhite farm workers in the Northeast also included about 3,000 imported Jamaicans in May. For the United States as a whole, nonwhite hired farm workers, chiefly Negroes, increased from 483,000 in March to 719,000 in May, but their rate of increase was approximately the same as for white workers. Half of the hired farm workers in the South in May 1945 were Negroes.

One in Eight Hired Workers Related to Operator.-In both March and May, one-eighth of all hired farm workers were relatives of the farm operator for whom they were working. In May, 6 percent were sons or daughters of the operator and 7 percent were wives, brothers, or other relatives. These relatives were being paid regular wages for farm work and did not include members of the family given a regular cash allowance not dependent on the amount of work done. The average age of sons and daughters working for wages on their parents' farm was 25 years, as compared with 33 years for other relatives and 35 years for unrelated workers.

The practice of paying a son or other relative cash wages for farm work is most common in the Northern regions. Related workers were about one-fourth of all hired farm workers in the Northeast and North Central regions. Less than 10 percent of the hired workers were relatives in the South and West.

More Working in Crews.-The number of hired farm workers who were working in gangs or crews, with each person in the crew paid the same wage rate, more than doubled between March and May 1945. About 60 percent of the 570,000 crew workers in May were employed in the South and 35 percent in the West. Many of the crew workers in the South were cotton chopping gangs and others were vegetable harvesters. In the West, crew workers were employed in fruit and vegetable areas and also in sugar beet thinning. Crew workers comprised 43 percent of all hired farm workers employed in the West.

Seasonal Workers Concentrated on Farms with 4 or More Hired Workers.-Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of all seasonal workers in May 1945 were working on farms which had 4 or more hired workers during the week. The 125,000 farms which employed 4 or more workers had an average of 10 hired workers per farm, 3 regular workers and 7 seasonal workers. In March, farms with 4 or more workers employed only 58 percent of all seasonal workers. The 71,000 farms which employed 4 or more hired workers in March averaged 11 hired workers, 5 regular and 6 seasonal.



### 3. HOURLY CASH WAGES OF HIRED FARM WORKERS, MAY 20-26, 1945

Seasonal Wage Gains Except in South.-Average cash wages of hired farm workers increased by 2 to 6 cents an hour in regions other than the South between March and May 1945. The average cash wages for all hired farm workers in the United States increased from 35 cents an hour in March to 37 cents an hour in May. In the Northeast and West, female workers had larger gains than male workers, because of the increase in women working at the generally higher rates which are paid in special crop areas. Similarly, nonwhites in the Northeast showed much higher hourly wages in May than in March as the number of Negro workers employed in the coastal trucking area increased.

The decrease from 29 cents to 26 cents per hour in the South, was due to lower wages earned by nonwhites and by women. White workers averaged 30 cents per hour both in March and May while nonwhites dropped from 28 to 23 cents an hour. The hourly cash wages earned by both white and nonwhite workers decreased in the South. Cotton chopping and certain other types of work usually done by day hands in May are paid at somewhat lower rates than the average for all types of work in March.

Men 35 to 44 Years Old Make Highest Wages.-As in March, men aged 35 to 44 had the highest average hourly cash wages in every region among male farm workers not employed in crews. The variation among different age groups was least in the South, where men 25 to 34 years of age equalled the 30 cents an hour earned by those 35 to 44, and the lowest paid groups earned 23 cents an hour. In general, hourly wages were lowest for the youngest age groups, highest for men aged 35 to 44, and somewhat less for men 45 years old or over.

Two-thirds of Men Make Less than 40 Cents an Hour.-Between March and May there was a slight upward shift in the percent of hired farm men earning specified amounts of hourly wages, but two-thirds still earn less than 40 cents an hour in cash wages and one-fifth less than 20 cents an hour. Less than 2 percent of hired farm men in the United States in May 1945 made as much as 95 cents an hour in cash wages and only 8 percent made as much as 75 cents an hour.

Workers on Larger Farms Earn Higher Hourly Wages.-Farms with gross sales of \$20,000 and over during 1944 were paying their hired workers average cash wages of 49 cents an hour in May 1945, while those which sold less than \$1,500 worth of products in the preceding year were paying only 24 cents an hour. Some of this difference in the United States averages is caused by regional differences in wage levels, as relatively more farms in the West, where the level of farm wages is relatively high, are in the upper gross income brackets and more Southern farms in the lower brackets.

Within each region, however, larger farms pay higher hourly cash wages than smaller farms. However, this relationship did not hold for the two lowest income groups. Farms which reported \$1 to \$1,500 gross sales paid slightly higher wages than farms with sales of \$1,500 to \$4,000 in every region except the South. This is in part due to the



fact that not all of the farms in the low-income group are small farms, since partial crop failures and other conditions may result in low cash sales for any one year. In successively higher value groups, hourly cash wages generally increased, with the very large farms paying from one and one-half to twice as high hourly wages as the small farms. The graph on the cover page shows the relationship between hourly cash wages and size of farm for all regular workers.

The relationship between hourly cash wages and the scale of farming operations as shown by the value of farm products sold in the preceding year was most marked in the case of year-round workers who were to be employed 300 days or more on the reporting farm. In every region except the Northeast, year-round workers were paid more than twice as much on the larger farms. For example, year-round workers earned 21 cents per hour on farms in the North Central region which had less than \$4,000 sales the preceding year, compared with 51 cents an hour on farms with \$20,000 or more sales. In the West, year-round workers on farms in the lowest value group earned 27 cents an hour, while those on farms in the highest group received 63 cents.

#### 4. TIME WORKED, DAILY AND WEEKLY EARNINGS, MAY 20-26, 1945

Work-Day Longer.-The average number of hours worked per day by hired farm workers in the United States increased from 9.1 to 9.7 hours between March and May 1945. In the West the increase was greatest - from 7.8 to 9.2 hours per day. In the South and North Central the average number of hours worked per day increased only by about a half hour, while there was no appreciable change in the Northeast. Male farm workers averaged 0.7 hours per day more than females in May, with the difference ranging from only 0.3 hours more per day in the South to 2.4 hours per day in the North Central. Differences between white and nonwhite workers in average hours per day worked were negligible except in the Northeast, where white workers averaged 9.7 hours per day and nonwhite workers only 8.7 hours. In this region a larger proportion of white workers were employed at dairy work and other regular jobs which require longer hours, while a larger proportion of nonwhite workers did field work such as cutting asparagus or picking strawberries - types of work in which less than full days are commonly worked.

Average Hours Worked Per Week on One Farm About Same.-The average number of hours worked by hired workers on one farm during the week of May 20-26, 1945 was 45, the same as reported in March. The increase in part-week jobs as the season advanced was reflected in a smaller average number of days per week, which decreased from 5.0 to 4.6 days. An increase of female workers in the South accounted for the major part of this drop as they averaged only 2.9 days per week on the reporting farm compared with 4.2 days a week for male workers. Elsewhere women workers also increased and worked fewer days per week than men in the same region.



Daily and Weekly Wages Increase Most in West.-Average daily cash wages of hired farm workers increased by more than one-fourth in the West - from \$4.90 in March to \$6.20 in May. As the South showed only a decrease of 10 cents per day - from \$2.60 to \$2.50 in May - the seasonal movement tended to widen regional differentials in farm wage levels. Similarly in weekly cash wages, hired workers in the West had the greatest relative and absolute gains, from \$27.20 to \$33.80. In contrast, average weekly wages on the reporting farm dropped from \$11.20 to \$9.80 in the South. The other two regions showed gains in daily and weekly wages, but not so marked as those in the West.

Some Work Longer, Paid Less.-Farmers generally pay their sons and daughters and other relatives less on an hourly, daily, or weekly cash basis than they pay unrelated persons working for them as hired laborers. They also pay sons or daughters less on an hourly or daily basis than they do other relatives. In the North Central States, where one-fourth of all hired workers were relatives of the farmer employing them, sons and daughters averaged 22 cents an hour, \$2.50 a day, and \$15.90 for a week of 72 hours. Other relatives were paid 26 cents an hour or \$2.80 a day, but only \$15.50 a week because of a shorter work-week of only 60 hours. These wages to relatives were definitely lower than those paid unrelated workers not working in crews which were 33 cents an hour, \$3.50 a day, and \$19.00 a week for an average of 58 hours per week. The differentials were similar in the Northeast, the other region where related hired workers were numerically important. Sons or daughters were paid \$16.20 on the average for a 68-hour week, other relatives were paid \$19.50 for a 59-hour week, and unrelated non-crew workers were paid \$22.40 for a 54-hour week.

It should be remembered that the figures cited refer to cash wages only and that probably almost all of the sons and daughters and many of the other relatives received board and lodging free of charge from the farm operator in addition to cash wages. If perquisites furnished were evaluated, they would no doubt make up for the lower cash wages to relatives.

Regular Workers Have Highest Weekly Wages.-Although regular workers have lower hourly wages than seasonal workers, they earn higher weekly wages on the average because of steadier employment. Workers who were to be employed for 6 months or more on one farm during the year averaged 34 cents an hour and \$20.30 a week by working 60 hours. Seasonal workers averaged 41 cents an hour, but only \$14.60 for a 35-hour week. Only in the Northeast did seasonal workers average higher weekly cash wages than regular workers - \$24.70 as compared with \$21.20. The reason for this was the much higher average hourly wage of seasonal than of regular workers in the Northeast.

Farmers with More Workers Pay Higher Wages.-Farmers with 4 or more hired workers paid higher hourly, daily and weekly cash wages to their regular and seasonal workers than did farmers with fewer hired



workers. 2/ Regular workers on farms with 4 or more hired workers averaged from 13 percent higher weekly wages than regular workers on farms with fewer workers in the West to 44 percent more in the Northeast. Yet they worked somewhat fewer hours than did regular workers on farms with fewer workers in the Northeast and North Central, and only 2 and 3 more hours per week in the South and West.

Seasonal Workers Afforded Fuller Work-Week on Larger Farms.-

Farms with 4 or more hired workers provided more hours of work to their seasonal workers during the week of May 20-26 than did farms with fewer workers - 37 hours per week as compared with 31 hours. This held in every region except the North Central, where the differential was reversed. In the North Central weekly wages were almost the same for seasonal workers on farms with 4 or more workers and on other farms. In the other regions, however, weekly wages of seasonal workers on farms with 4 or more workers exceeded those of seasonal workers on farms with fewer workers by 22 percent in the South, 39 percent in the West, and 46 percent in the Northeast.

5. WAGE RATES PAID HIRED FARM WORKERS, MAY 20-26, 1945

Nearly Half Paid Day Rates.-Forty-four percent of all hired farm workers were paid day rates in May, and 85 percent of these were not furnished meals. As in March, however, day rates were the most common type of rate only in the South. Week rates were the most common in the Northeast in May (33 percent of the workers), month rates in the North Central (42 percent), day rates in the South (66 percent), and hour rates in the West (47 percent). The main increases from March to May in types of wage rates paid were more piece rates in the Northeast, more week rates in the North Central, more day rates in the South, and more piece rates in the West. These shifts in types of rates reflect seasonal changes in type of work done on farms and customary practices in paying certain types of rates for particular operations.

The proportion of hired workers receiving meals decreased slightly. For the country as a whole, slightly over half of those paid month rates also received meals, which a sixth of the workers paid day rates were furnished meals.

Month and Week Rates Rise.-Month rates with and without meals rose approximately 10 percent in the country as a whole between March and May 1945 and week rates rose nearly 20 percent. On the other hand, hour rates declined by 9 percent. With one minor exception each

2/ This situation held for every region with one minor exception in the case of weekly wages of seasonal workers in the North Central region.



region showed the same direction of change as the United States average for each of these types of rates. The changes suggest that the demand for regular workers, who would more likely be paid month or week rates, was harder to meet in the late spring of 1945 than the demand for seasonal workers. Day rates showed small increases in the South and North Central and small decreases in the Northeast and West. The slight decline in the United States average day rate was due entirely to the fact that in May a greater percentage of all workers paid day rates were located in the South where rates are much lower than in other regions.

Day Hands Get Lowest Pay.-As the new surveys are obtaining information on time worked and wages earned during the week, in addition to amount of wage rate, the hourly or weekly equivalent cash wage of the various types of rates can be computed. These permit comparisons between different types of rates adjusted to a comparable time basis. Comparisons of averages at the national level show that workers paid day rates earned the lowest hourly and weekly cash wages of workers not receiving meals, 27 cents per hour and only \$9.40 per week. However, these averages for day rates are unduly affected by the generally low level of wages in the South, where day rates are predominant. Nearly 90 percent of all workers paid day rates without meals are in the South.

For workers not receiving meals, day rates yield the lowest hourly and weekly cash earnings in every region except the Northeast. Hourly rates yield the highest hourly wages in the North Central and West. Weekly rates yield the highest weekly earning in the Northeast and South, and monthly rates result in the highest weekly cash earnings in the North Central and West.

Women Paid Lower Rates than Men in South and West.-Women paid day rates in the South received an average of \$1.95 per day while men received an average of \$2.55. This differential held among both white and nonwhite workers. Nonwhite women averaged only \$1.85 per day compared with \$2.40 a day for men. Among white workers, women averaged \$2.50 and men \$2.80. Southern women (both white and nonwhite) paid hour rates, averaged only 26 cents per hour, compared with 31 cents for men. Similarly in the West, women were paid average rates of \$3.90 per day and 72 cents per hour, while men received \$4.50 per day and 75 cents per hour.



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Table 33. Percentage distribution of regular and seasonal hired farm workers by specified perquisite items received, United States and major regions, May 1945.



Table 1.-Farms reporting hired labor and number of hired farm workers employed, United States and major regions, March and May 1945

Area	Farms with hired labor			Hired farm workers		
	:	:	:	:	:	:
	May	March	Per-	May	March	Per-
	20-26,	18-24,	centage	20-26,	18-24,	centage
	1945	1945	increase,	1945	1945	increase,
			March-May			March-May
			1945			1945
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Percent
United States	914,000	715,000	27.8	2,331,000	1,633,000	42.7
Northeast	97,000	84,000	15.5	186,000	147,000	26.5
North Central	269,000	242,000	11.2	384,000	330,000	16.4
South	437,000	308,000	41.9	1,304,000	863,000	51.1
West	111,000	81,000	37.0	457,000	293,000	56.0

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Throughout this report estimates are presented for four major regions which group the States as follows;

Northeast: Maine, N.H., Vt., Mass., R.I., Conn., Pa., N.Y., N.J.

North Central: Ohio, Ind., Ill., Mich., Wis., Minn., Iowa, Mo., N.Dak., S.Dak., Nebr., Kans.

South: Del., Md., Va., W.Va., N.C., S.C., Ga., Fla., Ky., Tenn., Ala., Miss., Ark., La., Okla., Tex.

West: Mont., Idaho, Wyo., Colo., N.Mex., Ariz., Utah, Nev., Wash., Oreg., Calif.



Table 2.—Distribution of farms reporting hired labor and of hired farm workers, by number of workers employed, United States and major regions, March and May 1945

Area and number of hired workers reported	: Farms with hired labor :				: Hired farm workers :			
	: May 20-26, 1945 :		: March 18-24, 1945 :		: May 20-26, 1945 :		: March 18-24, 1945 :	
	: Number:Percent :		: Number:Percent :		: Number:Percent :		: Number:Percent :	
	Thou- sands		Thou- sands		Thou- sands		Thou- sands	
<u>United States</u>								
All farms reporting hired labor	914	100	715	100	2,331	100	1,633	100
1 hired worker	550	60	472	66	550	24	472	29
2 hired workers	165	18	120	17	330	14	240	15
3 hired workers	74	8	52	7	222	9	156	9
4 or more hired workers	125	14	71	10	1,229	53	765	47
<u>Northeast</u>								
All farms reporting hired labor	97	100	84	100	186	100	147	100
1 hired worker	60	62	54	64	60	32	54	37
2 hired workers	21	22	19	23	42	23	38	26
3 hired workers	7	7	6	7	21	11	17	11
4 or more hired workers	9	9	5	6	63	34	38	26
<u>North Central</u>								
All farms reporting hired labor	269	100	242	100	384	100	330	100
1 hired worker	216	80	195	81	216	56	195	59
2 hired workers	33	12	31	13	66	17	62	19
3 hired workers	10	4	8	3	30	8	25	8
4 or more hired workers	10	4	8	3	72	19	48	14
<u>South</u>								
All farms reporting hired labor	437	100	308	100	1,304	100	863	100
1 hired worker	219	50	179	58	219	17	179	21
2 hired workers	92	21	55	18	184	14	110	13
3 hired workers	46	11	29	9	138	11	88	10
4 or more hired workers	80	18	45	15	763	58	486	56
<u>West</u>								
All farms reporting hired labor	111	100	81	100	457	100	293	100
1 hired worker	55	50	44	54	55	12	44	15
2 hired workers	19	17	15	19	38	8	30	10
3 hired workers	11	10	9	11	33	7	26	9
4 or more hired workers	26	23	13	16	331	73	193	66

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 3.-Percentage distribution of farms with hired labor in May 1945 reporting value of products sold or traded in 1944 and of their hired farm workers in May 1945, by value of products sold or traded in 1944, United States and major regions

Area and value of products sold or traded in 1944		:Hired workers in May 1945	
	Farms	: Percent	: Number per farm
	Percent	Percent	Number
<u>United States</u>			
Farms with hired labor reporting sales <u>1/</u>	100	100	2.1
\$1 - 1,499	23	18	1.7
1,500 - 3,999	31	25	1.7
4,000 - 9,999	29	24	1.8
10,000 - 19,999	10	15	3.0
20,000 and over	7	18	5.3
<u>Northeast</u>			
Farms with hired labor reporting sales <u>1/</u>	100	100	1.8
\$1 - 1,499	8	5	1.2
1,500 - 3,999	23	16	1.3
4,000 - 9,999	46	36	1.4
10,000 - 19,999	15	23	2.7
20,000 and over	8	20	4.5
<u>North Central</u>			
Farms with hired labor reporting sales <u>1/</u>	100	100	1.4
\$1 - 1,499	10	9	1.4
1,500 - 3,999	29	24	1.2
4,000 - 9,999	45	42	1.3
10,000 - 19,999	12	12	1.5
20,000 and over	4	13	4.3
<u>South</u>			
Farms with hired labor reporting sales <u>1/</u>	100	100	2.4
\$1 - 1,499	39	28	1.8
1,500 - 3,999	36	31	2.1
4,000 - 9,999	13	15	2.8
10,000 - 19,999	6	12	5.2
20,000 and over	6	14	5.4
<u>West</u>			
Farms with hired labor reporting sales <u>1/</u>	100	100	3.3
\$1 - 1,499	10	6	1.9
1,500 - 3,999	20	11	1.8
4,000 - 9,999	29	25	2.8
10,000 - 19,999	21	20	3.2
20,000 and over	20	38	6.2

1/ Excludes farms reporting zero value of products sold or traded and farms not reporting. Only farm operators reporting hired workers employed during May 20-26, 1945 were asked to report on their value of products sold or traded in 1944.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 4.--Distribution of hired farm workers by expected duration of employment in 1945 on reporting farm, United States, March and May 1945

Expected duration of employment on reporting farm in 1945	:	:	:	:
	:	May 20-26,	March 18-24,	Change,
	:	1945	1945	March-May
	:	:	:	1945
		<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Regular - 150 days or more		875,000	898,000	-3
Seasonal - less than 150 days		1,456,000	735,000	98
75 - 149 days		186,000	150,000	24
Less than 75 days		473,000	244,000	94
Crew workers <u>1/</u>		570,000	257,000	122
Workers with days not reported <u>2/</u>		227,000	84,000	170

1/ Farmers were not asked to report on expected duration of employment of workers employed in gangs or crews; the majority of crew workers are short-time seasonal laborers.

2/ It has been assumed that these workers were seasonal workers in grouping them with those whose expected duration of employment was reported to be less than 150 days on the employing farm. The average cash wages earned and time worked by these workers are shown in table 22.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 5.-Distribution of hired farm workers by expected duration of employment in 1945 on reporting farm,  
United States and major regions, May 1945

Expected duration of employment on reporting farm in 1945		United States		Northeast		North Central		South		West	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total		2,331,000	100	186,000	100	384,000	100	1,304,000	100	457,000	100
Regular workers		875,000	38	124,000	67	250,000	65	365,000	28	136,000	30
300 days or more		467,000	20	88,000	47	172,000	45	136,000	10	71,000	16
150 - 299 days		408,000	18	36,000	20	78,000	20	229,000	18	65,000	14
Seasonal workers		1,456,000	62	62,000	33	134,000	35	939,000	72	321,000	70
75 - 149 days		186,000	8	14,000	7	35,000	9	108,000	8	29,000	6
Less than 75 days		473,000	20	16,000	9	60,000	16	337,000	26	60,000	13
Crew workers 1/		570,000	24	20,000	11	7,000	2	346,000	27	197,000	43
Workers with days not reported 2/		227,000	10	12,000	6	32,000	8	148,000	11	35,000	8

1/ Farmers were not asked to report on expected duration of employment of workers employed in gangs or crews; the majority of crew workers are short-time seasonal laborers.

2/ It has been assumed that these workers were seasonal workers in grouping them with those whose expected duration of employment was reported to be less than 150 days on the employing farm. The average cash wages earned and time worked by these workers are shown in table 22.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 6.-Distribution of hired farm workers by race and sex, United States and major regions, May 1945

Race and sex	United States		Northeast		North Central		South		West	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	2,331,000	100	186,000	100	384,000	100	1,304,000	100	457,000	100
Male	1,946,000	84	170,000	91	365,000	95	1,006,000	77	405,000	89
Female	385,000	16	16,000	9	19,000	5	298,000	23	52,000	11
White	1,612,000	69	166,000	89	377,000	98	650,000	50	419,000	92
Male	1,467,000	63	153,000	82	359,000	93	578,000	44	377,000	83
Female	145,000	6	13,000	7	18,000	5	72,000	6	42,000	9
Nonwhite	719,000	31	20,000	11	7,000	2	654,000	50	38,000	8
Male	479,000	21	17,000	9	6,000	2	428,000	33	28,000	6
Female	240,000	10	3,000	2	1,000	1/	226,000	17	10,000	2

1/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 7.-Distribution of hired farm workers by relationship to farm operator, United States and major regions, March and May 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Area and relationship	: May 20-26, 1945			: March 18-24, 1945		
	: Number	: Average age	: Number	: Average		
	: of	: Percent	: of	: of	: Percent	: age of
	: workers	: worker	: workers	: workers	: workers	: workers
<u>United States</u> - total	2,244,000	100	-	1,602,000	100	-
Son or daughter	122,000	6	25	107,000	7	26
Other relative	160,000	7	33	92,000	6	35
No relation, non-crew worker	1,392,000	62	35	1,146,000	71	37
Crew worker <sup>2/</sup>	570,000	25	-	257,000	16	-
<u>Northeast</u> - total	183,000	100	-	146,000	100	-
Son or daughter	31,000	17	26	26,000	18	26
Other relative	14,000	8	34	14,000	10	32
No relation, non-crew worker	119,000	65	37	95,000	65	38
Crew worker <sup>2/</sup>	19,000	10	-	11,000	7	-
<u>North Central</u> - total	370,000	100	-	319,000	100	-
Son or daughter	53,000	14	26	52,000	16	26
Other relative	47,000	13	34	30,000	10	36
No relation, non-crew worker	263,000	71	36	233,000	73	38
Crew worker <sup>2/</sup>	7,000	2	-	4,000	1	-
<u>South</u> - total	1,252,000	100	-	847,000	100	-
Son or daughter	25,000	2	25	17,000	2	25
Other relative	83,000	7	30	41,000	5	36
No relation, non-crew worker	798,000	64	33	662,000	78	35
Crew worker <sup>2/</sup>	346,000	27	-	127,000	15	-
<u>West</u> - total	439,000	100	-	290,000	100	-
Son or daughter	13,000	3	24	12,000	4	27
Other relative	16,000	4	38	7,000	2	36
No relation, non-crew worker	212,000	48	38	156,000	54	40
Crew worker <sup>2/</sup>	198,000	45	-	115,000	40	-

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes approximately 87,000 custom workers in May and 30,000 in March.

<sup>2/</sup> Relationship to farm operator and age not asked for crew workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 8.-Number and proportion of crew and custom workers among all hired farm workers, United States and major regions, May 1945

Area	Number of workers				Percent of workers			
	Total Number	Crew Number	Custom 1/ Number	Other Number	Total Percent	Crew Percent	Custom 1/ Percent	Other Percent
United States	2,331,000	570,000	87,000	1,674,000	100	24	4	72
Northeast	186,000	20,000	3,000	163,000	100	11	2	87
North Central	384,000	7,000	14,000	363,000	100	2	4	94
South	1,304,000	346,000	52,000	906,000	100	27	4	69
West	457,000	197,000	18,000	242,000	100	43	4	53

1/ Workers whose reported cash wages covered hire of machinery, equipment, or work-stock in addition to labor.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 9.-Distribution of regular and seasonal hired workers on farms, by number of hired workers employed on the farm, United States and major regions, March and May 1945 1/

Area and number of hired workers employed on the farm	May 20-26, 1945			March 18-24, 1945		
	Number	Regular	Seasonal	Number	Regular	Seasonal
	of	workers	workers	of	workers	workers
	workers	2/	3/	workers	2/	3/
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
<u>United States - Farms with:</u>						
Any hired workers	2,244,000	867,000	1,377,000	1,602,000	896,000	706,000
1 - 3 workers	1,039,000	553,000	486,000	837,000	540,000	297,000
4 or more workers	1,205,000	314,000	891,000	765,000	356,000	409,000
<u>Northeast - Farms with:</u>						
Any hired workers	183,000	123,000	60,000	146,000	112,000	34,000
1 - 3 workers	121,000	94,000	27,000	108,000	90,000	18,000
4 or more workers	62,000	29,000	33,000	38,000	22,000	16,000
<u>North Central - Farms with:</u>						
Any hired workers	370,000	247,000	123,000	319,000	251,000	68,000
1 - 3 workers	298,000	211,000	87,000	271,000	216,000	55,000
4 or more workers	72,000	36,000	36,000	48,000	35,000	13,000
<u>South - Farms with:</u>						
Any hired workers	1,252,000	364,000	888,000	847,000	403,000	444,000
1 - 3 workers	499,000	181,000	318,000	360,000	167,000	193,000
4 or more workers	753,000	183,000	570,000	487,000	236,000	251,000
<u>West - Farms with:</u>						
Any hired workers	439,000	133,000	306,000	290,000	130,000	160,000
1 - 3 workers	121,000	67,000	54,000	98,000	67,000	31,000
4 or more workers	318,000	66,000	252,000	192,000	63,000	129,000

1/ Excludes approximately 87,000 custom workers in May and 30,000 in March.

2/ Workers the farmer reported he would employ for 150 days or more during 1945.

3/ Workers the farmer reported he would employ less than 150 days during 1945.

This group includes some workers for whom expected duration of employment was not reported, the majority of whom were short-time seasonal laborers working in crews for whom this information was not requested.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 10.--Percentage distribution of regular and seasonal hired farm workers in May 1945 on farms reporting products sold or traded in 1944, by value of products sold or traded, United States and major regions

Area and value of products sold or traded in 1944	: Regular workers : Seasonal workers (less : All : (150 days or more: than 150 days employ- : hired : employment in 1945: ment in 1945 on : workers, on reporting farm): reporting farm : May : : 300 : 150- : : 75- : : Days : 20-26, : All : days: 299 : All : 149 : 1-74: not : 1945 : regular: or : days: seasonal: days: days: reported : : : more: : : : : : 1/ Pct. Pct. Pct. Pct. Pct. Pct. Pct. Pct.							
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
United States - Classified farms 2/	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
\$1 - 1,499	18	7	6	8	28	17	37	21
1,500 - 3,999	25	21	17	25	28	31	33	20
4,000 - 9,999	24	29	34	23	20	28	19	17
10,000 - 19,999	15	17	17	18	12	13	7	18
20,000 and over	18	26	26	26	12	11	4	24
Northeast - Classified farms 2/	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
\$1 - 1,499	5	4	3	5	8	8	14	2
1,500 - 3,999	16	17	19	13	14	13	15	13
4,000 - 9,999	36	40	40	39	27	40	35	11
10,000 - 19,999	23	21	19	26	26	24	23	31
20,000 and over	20	18	19	17	25	15	13	43
North Central - Classified farms 2/	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
\$1 - 1,499	9	5	6	4	16	15	19	9
1,500 - 3,999	24	21	20	23	30	32	33	20
4,000 - 9,999	42	44	48	35	36	28	41	36
10,000 - 19,999	12	16	15	18	6	7	4	9
20,000 and over	13	14	11	20	12	18	3	26
South - Classified farms 2/	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
\$1 - 1,499	28	11	10	11	37	21	46	31
1,500 - 3,999	31	27	19	31	33	34	37	27
4,000 - 9,999	15	17	19	17	14	26	11	11
10,000 - 19,999	12	16	18	15	10	13	5	17
20,000 and over	14	29	34	26	6	6	1	14
West - Classified farms 2/	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
\$1 - 1,499	6	2	2	2	8	7	11	7
1,500 - 3,999	11	9	6	11	13	24	15	8
4,000 - 9,999	25	17	16	19	30	31	38	25
10,000 - 19,999	20	22	18	26	20	18	19	21
20,000 and over	38	50	58	42	29	20	17	39

1/ The majority of this group are short-time seasonal laborers working in crews for whom information on duration of employment was not requested.

2/ Excludes farms reporting zero value of products sold or traded and farms not reporting. Only farm operators reporting hired workers employed during May 20-26, 1945 were asked to report on their value of products sold or traded in 1944.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 11.-Distribution of hired farm workers not employed in crews, by age, United States and major regions, March and May 1945

Age	: United :		: North :		: South :		: West :			
	: States :		: Northeast :		: Central :		: South :		: West :	
	: May :		: March :		: May :		: March :		: May :	
	: 20-26:18-24:		: 20-26:18-24:		: 20-26:18-24:		: 20-26:18-24:		: 20-26:18-24:	
	<u>Thou-</u>	<u>Thou-</u>	<u>Thou-</u>	<u>Thou-</u>	<u>Thou-</u>	<u>Thou-</u>	<u>Thou-</u>	<u>Thou-</u>	<u>Thou-</u>	<u>Thou-</u>
	<u>sands</u>	<u>sands</u>	<u>sands</u>	<u>sands</u>	<u>sands</u>	<u>sands</u>	<u>sands</u>	<u>sands</u>	<u>sands</u>	<u>sands</u>
Total with age reported <u>1/</u>	1,674	1,345	163	134	363	316	906	720	242	175
Under 18 years <u>2/</u>	331	156	23	15	63	28	215	100	30	13
18 - 24	277	224	33	32	72	71	139	106	33	15
25 - 34	320	325	37	30	70	75	163	178	45	42
35 - 44	300	251	26	20	59	52	165	138	50	41
45 - 64	358	318	33	28	74	72	178	161	73	57
65 and over	88	71	11	9	25	18	41	37	11	7

1/ Information on age was not requested for workers employed in crews and for this reason male crew workers in May and March are excluded from this table. In addition approximately 87,000 custom workers in May and 30,000 in March are excluded.

2/ Eighty percent of the hired workers under 18 years of age in May were 14 years old or over and 89 percent of the hired workers under 18 in March were 14 years old or over.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 12.-Average hourly cash wages earned by hired farm workers, by race and sex, United States and major regions, March and May 1945

Race and sex	United States		Northeast		North Central		South		West	
	May	March	May	March	May	March	May	March	May	March
	20-26	18-24	20-26	18-24	20-26	18-24	20-26	18-24	20-26	18-24
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Total <sup>1/</sup>	39	35	40	34	30	28	26	29	67	62
Male	38	35	39	33	30	28	27	29	66	62
Female	33	32	59	48	28	31	21	29	72	56
White	41	37	38	33	30	28	30	30	66	62
Male	40	37	37	33	30	28	30	29	66	62
Female	47	39	57	47	28	31	25	34	72	56
Nonwhite	28	29	65	46	27	33	23	28	70	69
Male	29	30	65	45	28	<u>2/</u>	24	28	71	69
Female	24	28	71	<u>2/</u>	25	<u>2/</u>	20	27	68	<u>2/</u>

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes approximately 87,000 custom workers in May and 30,000 in March, since hire of machinery, equipment or workstock was included in their reported cash wages.

<sup>2/</sup> Averages not shown because there were fewer than 20 workers in each of these classes in the sample.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 13.--Average hourly cash wages earned by male hired farm workers not employed in crews, by age, United States and major regions, May 1945 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>



Table 14.--Percentage distribution of male hired farm workers not employed in crews by hourly cash wages earned, United States and major regions, May 1945

Hourly cash wages earned	United States	Northeast	North Central	South	West
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total 1/	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 10 cents	2.2	5.5	3.1	1.7	.3
10 - 14	6.5	9.7	7.6	7.0	1.1
15 - 19	10.4	8.3	11.8	13.2	.5
20 - 24	13.0	7.7	11.0	18.7	1.8
25 - 29	12.9	7.7	13.4	16.7	3.3
30 - 34	13.6	8.6	14.1	17.4	4.5
35 - 39	7.1	6.4	8.4	7.4	4.7
40 - 44	8.7	9.6	8.9	8.8	7.5
45 - 54	8.9	12.0	10.4	5.6	15.0
55 - 64	5.0	9.1	7.1	2/ 3.5	10.4
65 - 74	3.7	6.4	2.3		14.2
75 - 84	4.4	4.0	3/ 1.9		20.5
85 - 94	1.8	1.6			10.0
95 - 104	1.0	1.6			4.1
105 and over	.8	1.8			2.1

1/ Excludes approximately 87,000 custom workers since hire of machinery, equipment or workstock was included in their reported cash wages.

2/ 55 cents and over.

3/ 75 cents and over.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 15.-Average hourly cash wages in May 1945 of hired farm workers on farms classified by value of products sold or traded in 1944, by expected duration of employment on reporting farm in 1945, United States and major regions 1/

Area and value of products sold or traded in 1944	: Regular workers (150 days or more employment in 1945 on reporting farm)						: Seasonal workers (less than 150 days employment in 1945 on reporting farm)					
	: All hired workers, :			: May :			: Days :			: Days :		
	: 20-26, :			: 300 days :			: 150 - 299 :			: 75 - :		
	: 1945 :			: or more :			: days :			: Less than :		
	Cents			Cents			Cents			Cents		
United States - Classified farms 3/	35	31	36	35	37	42						
\$1 - 1,499	24	19	23	26	25	29						
1,500 - 3,999	27	22	27	31	31	29						
4,000 - 9,999	32	25	32	36	46	44						
10,000 - 19,999	39	33	43	43	49	40						
20,000 and over	49	48	45	46	59	54						
Northeast - Classified farms 3/	38	30	40	51	64	69						
\$1 - 1,499	29	25	30	25	45	43						
1,500 - 3,999	28	24	33	44	65	42						
4,000 - 9,999	31	25	37	44	67	46						
10,000 - 19,999	43	36	43	61	64	64						
20,000 and over	55	44	52	67	66	83						
North Central - Classified farms 3/	30	26	32	35	40	40						
\$1 - 1,499	26	21	24	38	34	28						
1,500 - 3,999	25	20	27	30	37	40						
4,000 - 9,999	26	24	27	30	41	28						
10,000 - 19,999	34	29	38	36	40	67						
20,000 and over	47	51	41	50	59	42						
South - Classified farms 3/	26	27	29	26	26	22						
\$1 - 1,499	20	15	21	22	23	16						
1,500 - 3,999	25	22	24	27	27	24						
4,000 - 9,999	26	21	27	26	29	22						
10,000 - 19,999	29	26	35	31	27	22						
20,000 and over	32	36	32	32	32	24						
West - Classified farms 3/	62	57	60	58	67	69						
\$1 - 1,499	71	27	39	48	68	95						
1,500 - 3,999	48	34	47	51	56	56						
4,000 - 9,999	63	51	54	69	69	72						
10,000 - 19,999	58	51	61	57	74	52						
20,000 and over	66	63	66	54	66	72						

1/ Excludes approximately 87,000 custom workers since hire of machinery, equipment or workstock was included in their reported cash wages.

2/ The majority of this group are short-time seasonal laborers working in crews for whom information on duration of employment was not requested.

3/ Excludes farms reporting zero value of products sold or traded and farms not reporting. Only farm operators reporting hired workers employed during May 20-26, 1945 were asked to report on their value of products sold or traded in 1944. For average hourly wages by duration of employment for hired workers on all farms, see table 22.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 16.-Average hourly, daily, and weekly cash wages, average hours and days worked during week for hired farm workers, United States and major regions, March and May 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Area and week	Cash wages earned			Time worked		
	(on reporting farm)			(on reporting farm)		
	Hourly	Daily	Weekly	Hours per day	Days per week	Hours per week
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Number	Number
<u>United States</u>						
May 20-26	.37	3.60	16.80	9.7	4.6	45
March 18-24	.35	3.20	15.80	9.1	5.0	45
<u>Northeast</u>						
May 20-26	.40	3.80	22.20	9.6	5.8	56
March 18-24	.34	3.30	19.40	9.7	5.9	57
<u>North Central</u>						
May 20-26	.30	3.20	18.00	10.7	5.6	60
March 18-24	.28	2.90	16.30	10.3	5.7	58
<u>South</u>						
May 20-26	.26	2.50	9.80	9.6	3.9	37
March 18-24	.29	2.60	11.20	9.0	4.3	39
<u>West</u>						
May 20-26	.67	6.20	33.80	9.2	5.5	51
March 18-24	.62	4.90	27.20	7.8	5.6	44

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes approximately 87,000 custom workers in May and 30,000 in March since hire of machinery, equipment or workstock was included in their reported cash wages.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 17.—Average hourly, daily, and weekly cash wages, average hours and days worked during week for hired farm workers, by race and sex, United States and major regions, May 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Area, race, and sex	Cash wages earned			Time worked		
	May 20-26, 1945			May 20-26, 1945		
	(on reporting farm)			(on reporting farm)		
	Hourly	Daily	Weekly	Hours per day	Days per week	Hours per week
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Number	Number
<u>United States</u>						
White	.41	4.00	19.80	9.8	4.9	48
Nonwhite	.28	2.70	10.60	9.7	3.9	38
Male	.38	3.70	18.20	9.8	4.9	48
Female	.33	3.00	10.20	9.1	3.4	31
<u>Northeast</u>						
White	.38	3.60	21.60	9.7	5.9	57
Nonwhite	.65	5.70	27.70	8.7	4.9	42
Male	.39	3.80	22.20	9.7	5.9	57
Female	.59	4.90	22.30	8.3	4.6	38
<u>North Central</u>						
White	.30	3.20	18.10	10.7	5.6	60
Nonwhite	.27	2.90	12.00	10.5	4.2	44
Male	.30	3.30	18.40	10.8	5.6	61
Female	.28	2.40	10.30	8.4	4.4	36
<u>South</u>						
White	.30	2.80	11.10	9.6	3.9	38
Nonwhite	.23	2.30	8.60	9.7	3.8	37
Male	.27	2.70	11.10	9.7	4.2	40
Female	.21	2.00	5.80	9.4	2.9	28
<u>West</u>						
White	.66	6.10	33.70	9.2	5.5	51
Nonwhite	.70	6.60	35.70	9.3	5.4	51
Male	.66	6.10	34.00	9.3	5.5	51
Female	.72	6.20	32.40	8.7	5.2	45

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes approximately 87,000 custom workers since the hire of machinery, equipment or workstock was included in their reported cash wages.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 18.--Percentage distribution of hired farm workers not employed in crews, by hours worked during week on reporting farm, United States and major regions, March and May 1945

Hours worked during specified week	: United :		: Northeast :		: North Central :		: South :		: West :	
	: States :		: Northeast :		: Central :		: South :		: West :	
	: May :March :		: May :March :		: May :March :		: May :March :		: May :March :	
	:20-26:18-24 :		:20-26:18-24 :		:20-26:18-24 :		:20-26:18-24 :		:20-26:18-24 :	
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total <sup>1</sup> /	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Under 10	5	5	1	3	3	5	6	6	2	3
10 - 14	7	4	3	2	2	3	11	4	2	2
15 - 19	4	6	3	3	2	2	6	8	2	4
20 - 34	17	18	12	7	9	9	23	26	13	8
35 - 49	14	16	9	13	11	12	16	19	16	21
50 - 59	13	14	12	13	5	6	14	16	19	22
60 and over	40	37	60	60	68	63	24	21	46	40

<sup>1</sup>/ Excludes approximately 87,000 custom workers in May and 30,000 in March as well as crew workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Table 19.—Percentage distribution of male hired farm workers not employed in crews by daily cash wages earned, United States and major regions, March and May 1945

Daily cash wages on reporting farm	United States		Northeast		North Central		South		West	
	May	March	May	March	May	March	May	March	May	March
	20-26:	18-24:	20-26:	18-24:	20-26:	18-24:	20-26:	18-24:	20-26:	18-24:
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total <sup>1/</sup>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Under \$2.00	18	26	25	29	15	25	23	32	3	3
2.00 - 2.99	27	27	18	19	26	27	37	34	5	6
3.00 - 3.99	22	21	15	18	26	28	25	20	11	10
4.00 - 4.99	15	11	23	15	18	10	11	9	15	21
5.00 - 6.99	11	11	9	15	13	9	3	5	34	35
7.00 and over	7	4	10	4	2	1	1	2/	32	25

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes approximately 87,000 male custom workers in May and 27,000 in March since hire of machinery, equipment or workstock was included in their reported cash wages.

Note: For average daily cash wages of all hired farm workers, including crew workers, see table 17.

<sup>2/</sup> Less than 0.5 percent.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 20.--Percentage distribution of male hired farm workers not employed in crews, by weekly cash wages earned, United States and major regions, March and May 1945

Weekly cash wages on reporting farm 1/	United States		Northeast		North Central		South		West	
	May	March	May	March	May	March	May	March	May	March
	20-26:	18-24	20-26:	18-24	20-26:	18-24	20-26:	18-24	20-26:	18-24
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total 2/	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Under \$10.00	30	36	20	22	17	25	47	52	5	7
10.00 - 19.99	34	33	29	31	41	41	38	35	14	13
20.00 - 29.99	19	17	24	27	30	26	11	10	21	23
30.00 - 39.99	9	9	17	15	9	6	3	3	25	30
40.00 and over	8	5	10	5	3	2	1	2/	35	27

1/ These wages do not represent total weekly cash wages for workers who worked on more than one farm or who had a nonfarm job during the specified week.

2/ Excludes approximately 87,000 male custom workers in May and 27,000 in March.

3/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Note: For average weekly cash wages of all male hired farm workers, including crew workers, see table 17.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 21.-Average hourly, daily, and weekly wages, average hours and days worked during week, for hired farm workers by relationship to farm operator, United States and major regions, May 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Area and relationship	Cash wages earned			Time worked		
	May 20-26, 1945			May 20-26, 1945		
	(on reporting farm)			(on reporting farm)		
	Hourly	Daily	Weekly	Hours per day	Days per week	Hours per week
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Number	Number
<u>United States</u>						
Son or daughter	.25	2.60	15.90	10.5	6.1	64
Other relative	.30	3.00	12.80	10.0	4.3	43
No relation, non-crew worker	.36	3.50	16.50	9.7	4.7	46
Crew worker <sup>2/</sup>	.47	4.50	18.90	9.5	4.2	40
<u>Northeast</u>						
Son or daughter	.24	2.50	16.20	10.4	6.5	68
Other relative	.33	3.30	19.50	9.8	6.0	59
No relation, non-crew worker	.42	3.90	22.40	9.3	5.8	54
Crew worker <sup>2/</sup>	.74	7.00	33.40	9.4	4.8	45
<u>North Central</u>						
Son or daughter	.22	2.50	15.90	11.2	6.4	72
Other relative	.26	2.80	15.50	10.9	5.5	60
No relation, non-crew worker	.33	3.50	19.00	10.6	5.5	58
Crew worker <sup>2/</sup>	.34	3.20	10.30	9.3	3.3	30
<u>South</u>						
Son or daughter	.23	2.30	11.10	10.2	4.7	48
Other relative	.23	2.20	7.10	9.5	3.2	30
No relation, non-crew worker	.27	2.60	10.50	9.5	4.0	38
Crew worker <sup>2/</sup>	.25	2.50	8.80	10.0	3.6	36
<u>West</u>						
Son or daughter	.47	4.00	24.30	8.5	6.1	52
Other relative	.57	5.30	28.50	9.3	5.4	50
No relation, non-crew worker	.62	5.80	32.90	9.4	5.6	53
Crew worker <sup>2/</sup>	.75	6.80	36.00	9.0	5.3	48

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes approximately 87,000 custom workers since hire of machinery, equipment or workstock was included in their reported cash wages.

<sup>2/</sup> Relationship to farm operator not asked for crew workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 22.--Average hourly, daily, and weekly wages, average hours and days worked during week, for hired farm workers, by duration of employment in 1945 on reporting farm, United States and major regions, May 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Area and duration of employment on reporting farm during 1945	Cash wages earned			Time worked		
	May 20-26, 1945			May 20-26, 1945		
	(on reporting farm)			(on reporting farm)		
	Hourly	Daily	Weekly	Hours	Days	Hours
	per	per	per	per	per	per
	day	week	week	day	week	week
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Number	Number
<u>United States</u>						
Regular workers	.34	3.40	20.30	10.1	6.0	60
300 days or more	.32	3.40	21.50	10.3	6.4	66
150 - 299 days	.35	3.50	19.00	9.8	5.5	54
Seasonal workers	.41	3.90	14.60	9.4	3.7	35
75 - 149 days	.36	3.40	15.00	9.3	4.4	41
Less than 75 days	.36	3.40	10.30	9.3	3.1	28
Crew workers <sup>2/</sup>	.47	4.50	18.90	9.5	4.2	40
Workers with days unspecified <sup>3/</sup>	.34	3.10	10.30	9.1	3.3	30
<u>Northeast</u>						
Regular workers	.34	3.30	21.20	9.9	6.4	63
300 days or more	.31	3.10	20.60	10.1	6.6	67
150 - 299 days	.43	3.90	22.50	9.1	5.7	52
Seasonal workers	.62	5.30	24.70	8.7	4.6	40
75-149 days	.53	4.00	18.80	7.5	4.7	35
Less than 75 days	.65	5.60	22.40	8.7	4.0	35
Crew workers <sup>2/</sup>	.74	7.00	33.40	9.4	4.8	45
Workers with days unspecified <sup>3/</sup>	.43	3.80	19.30	8.8	5.1	45
<u>North Central</u>						
Regular workers	.28	3.10	19.70	11.0	6.3	70
300 days or more	.27	3.10	19.90	11.2	6.5	73
150 - 299 days	.31	3.30	19.10	10.6	5.9	62
Seasonal workers	.38	3.60	14.40	9.6	4.0	38
75 - 149 days	.34	3.30	15.80	9.6	4.8	46
Less than 75 days	.41	3.90	12.90	9.5	3.3	32
Crew workers <sup>2/</sup>	.34	3.20	10.30	9.3	3.2	30
Workers with days unspecified <sup>3/</sup>	.39	3.80	16.70	9.7	4.4	43
<u>South</u>						
Regular workers	.28	2.70	14.90	9.7	5.5	53
300 days or more	.28	2.70	16.50	9.6	6.1	58
150 - 299 days	.28	2.70	14.00	9.8	5.2	50
Seasonal workers	.25	2.40	7.70	9.6	3.2	31
75 - 149 days	.26	2.50	10.00	9.7	4.0	38
Less than 75 days	.25	2.40	6.50	9.4	2.7	26
Crew workers <sup>2/</sup>	.25	2.50	8.80	10.0	3.6	36
Workers with days unspecified <sup>3/</sup>	.22	2.00	5.20	9.0	2.6	24
<u>West</u>						
Regular workers	.59	5.70	35.70	9.6	6.3	60
300 days or more	.58	5.60	36.60	9.6	6.6	63
150 - 299 days	.61	5.80	34.90	9.5	6.0	58
Seasonal workers	.71	6.40	33.00	9.0	5.1	46
75 - 149 days	.60	5.30	30.60	8.9	5.7	51
Less than 75 days	.67	6.00	26.20	8.9	4.4	39
Crew workers <sup>2/</sup>	.75	6.80	36.00	9.0	5.3	48
Workers with days unspecified <sup>3/</sup>	.60	5.60	26.20	9.2	4.7	43

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes approximately 87,000 custom workers since hire of machinery, equipment, or workstock was included in their reported cash wages.

<sup>2/</sup> Farmers were not asked to report on expected duration of employment of workers employed in gangs or crews; the majority of crew workers are short-time seasonal laborers.

<sup>3/</sup> It has been assumed that these workers were seasonal workers in grouping them with those whose expected duration of employment was reported to be less than 150 days on the employing farm. The average cash wages earned and time worked by these workers are more nearly similar to those of seasonal workers than those of regular workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 23.-Average cash wages earned and time worked during week on reporting farm, for regular and seasonal farm workers, by number of hired workers employed on farm, United States and major regions, May 1945 1/

Area and number of hired workers employed on the farm	: Regular workers (150 days or more : employment on reporting farm in 1945)				: Seasonal workers (less than 150 days : employment on reporting farm in 1945) 2/							
	Hourly:Dolls.	Weekly:Dolls.	Hours:per week	Days:per week	Hourly:Dolls.	Weekly:Dolls.	Hours:per week	Days:per week				
	cash :wages :earned	cash :wages :earned	worked :per :week	worked :per :week	cash :wages :earned	cash :wages :earned	worked :per :week	worked :per :week				
<b>United States-Farms with:</b>												
Any hired workers	.34	3.40	20.30	10.1	6.0	60	.41	3.90	14.60	9.4	3.7	35
1 - 3 workers	.30	3.10	18.90	10.3	6.0	62	.34	3.20	10.80	9.3	3.4	31
4 or more workers	.40	3.90	22.80	9.7	5.9	57	.45	4.20	16.60	9.4	3.9	37
<b>Northeast -Farms with:</b>												
Any hired workers	.34	3.30	21.20	9.9	6.4	63	.62	5.30	24.70	8.7	4.6	40
1 - 3 workers	.30	3.00	19.10	9.9	6.4	64	.50	4.20	19.70	8.5	4.7	40
4 or more workers	.47	4.50	27.50	9.7	6.1	59	.71	6.20	28.70	8.8	4.6	41
<b>North Central-Farms with:</b>												
Any hired workers	.28	3.10	19.70	11.0	6.3	70	.38	3.60	14.40	9.6	4.0	38
1 - 3 workers	.26	2.90	18.60	11.2	6.3	71	.36	3.60	14.50	9.9	4.0	40
4 or more workers	.42	4.20	25.70	10.0	6.2	62	.43	3.80	14.10	8.8	3.8	33
<b>South - Farms with:</b>												
Any hired workers	.28	2.70	14.90	9.7	5.5	53	.25	2.40	7.70	9.6	3.2	31
1 - 3 workers	.26	2.60	13.80	9.7	5.4	52	.25	2.30	6.70	9.3	2.9	27
4 or more workers	.29	2.90	16.00	9.7	5.6	54	.25	2.50	8.20	9.8	3.3	33
<b>West - Farms with:</b>												
Any hired workers	.59	5.70	35.70	9.6	6.3	60	.71	6.40	33.00	9.0	5.1	46
1 - 3 workers	.57	5.40	33.60	9.4	6.2	59	.63	5.40	24.90	8.6	4.6	40
4 or more workers	.61	5.90	37.90	9.7	6.4	62	.73	6.60	34.70	9.1	5.3	48

1/ Excludes approximately 87,000 custom workers, since hire of machinery, equipment, or workstock was included in their reported cash wages. 2/ This group includes some workers for whom expected duration of employment was not reported, the majority of whom were short-time seasonal laborers working in crews for whom this information was not requested.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 24.-Percentage distribution of hired farm workers by type of wage rate,  
United States and major regions, March and May 1945

Type of wage rate	: United : States		: Northeast		: North : Central		: South		: West	
	: May :March		: May :March		: May :March		: May :March		: May :March	
	: 20-26:18-24		: 20-26:18-24		: 20-26:18-24		: 20-26:18-24		: 20-26:18-24	
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Per month	16	21	28	32	42	47	6	9	19	22
Per week	8	9	33	36	11	7	5	7	3	3
Per day	44	33	9	14	24	24	66	48	12	10
Per hour	23	26	16	14	15	14	18	21	47	61
Piece rate	4	8	12	3	1	1	1	13	15	3
Other 1/	5	3	2	1	7	7	4	2	4	1
Without meals furnished 2/	79	77	61	57	52	50	89	88	82	84
Per month	7	10	10	10	15	18	5	6	9	12
Per week	5	6	17	20	6	4	4	5	2	2
Per day	37	27	6	10	14	12	59	42	8	7
Per hour	22	24	15	13	12	11	17	20	46	59
Piece rate	4	8	12	3	1	1	1	13	14	3
Other 1/	4	2	1	1	4	4	3	2	3	1
With meals furnished 3/	21	23	39	43	48	50	11	12	18	16
Per month	9	11	18	22	27	29	1	3	10	10
Per week	3	3	16	16	5	3	1	2	1	1
Per day	7	6	3	4	10	12	7	6	4	3
Per hour	1	2	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	2
Piece rate	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	1	4/
Other 1/	1	1	1	4/	3	3	1	4/	1	4/

1/ Includes custom work rates and annual rates.

2/ Includes some workers receiving one meal per day.

3/ Two or more regular meals per day.

4/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of  
Agricultural Economics.

Table 25.--Average cash wage rates of hired farm workers, by type of wage rate, United States and major regions, March and May 1945

Type of rate and area	: May : 20-26, : 1945 <u>Dollars</u>	: March : 18-24, : 1945 <u>Dollars</u>	: Percentage : change, : March-May, 1945 <u>Percent</u>
<u>Month without meals 1/</u>			
United States	108.10	99.30	9
Northeast	100.00	98.60	1
North Central	102.30	98.20	4
South	75.00	65.60	14
West	167.30	151.00	11
<u>Month with meals 2/</u>			
United States	74.40	67.10	11
Northeast	54.50	55.90	-3
North Central	65.70	60.50	9
South	45.20	43.80	3
West	122.60	121.80	1
<u>Week without meals 1/</u>			
United States	25.80	21.60	19
Northeast	30.60	27.00	13
North Central	23.70	21.80	9
South	21.80	16.30	34
West	36.20	34.70	4
<u>Day without meals 1/</u>			
United States	2.55	2.65	-4
Northeast	5.15	5.40	-5
North Central	3.40	3.20	6
South	2.40	2.35	2
West	4.40	4.80	-8
<u>Hour without meals 1/</u>			
United States	.52	.57	-9
Northeast	.54	.57	-5
North Central	.50	.54	-7
South	.30	.36	-17
West	.75	.80	-6

1/ Includes some workers receiving one meal per day.

2/ Two or more regular meals per day.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 26.--Average hourly and weekly cash wages and hours worked, by type of wage rate, United States and major regions, May 1945

Area and type of rate	Average wage		Average cash wages		Average hours per
	rate	:	Hourly	Weekly	week worked on
	Dollars	:	Dollars	Dollars	Number
<u>United States</u>					
Without meals <u>1/</u>					
Month	108.10		.40	25.90	65
Week	25.80		.44	25.60	59
Day	2.55		.27	9.40	35
Hour	.52		.55	23.00	41
With meals, month <u>2/</u>	74.40		.25	17.70	70
<u>Northeast</u>					
Without meals <u>1/</u>					
Month	100.00		.35	24.10	70
Week	30.60		.50	30.60	61
Day	5.15		.58	23.40	40
Hour	.54		.56	21.00	38
With meals, month <u>2/</u>	54.50		.18	12.80	69
<u>North Central</u>					
Without meals <u>1/</u>					
Month	102.30		.33	24.50	73
Week	23.70		.40	23.80	59
Day	3.40		.32	14.80	46
Hour	.50		.52	20.40	39
With meals, month <u>2/</u>	65.70		.21	15.80	74
<u>South</u>					
Without meals <u>1/</u>					
Month	75.00		.30	18.30	61
Week	21.80		.38	21.70	57
Day	2.40		.24	8.20	34
Hour	.30		.29	10.00	35
With meals, month <u>2/</u>	45.20		.19	10.90	58
<u>West</u>					
Without meals <u>1/</u>					
Month	167.30		.67	39.40	58
Week	36.20		.66	35.80	55
Day	4.40		.47	22.60	48
Hour	.75		.76	38.20	50
With meals, month <u>2/</u>	122.60		.43	28.90	68

1/ Includes some workers receiving one meal per day.

2/ Two or more regular meals per day. These averages are not directly comparable with other values in column since meals are provided in addition to these cash wages.

Note: Average hour or week rates may differ slightly from their corresponding hourly or weekly cash wage equivalents for several reasons: (1) slightly different coverage, as the equivalent wages were computed only for workers who reported on time worked, (2) weekly wages being rounded to the nearest dollar before computing equivalents, and (3) in the case of week rates, payment for less than a full week's work.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 27.-Number of hired farm workers paid hour and day rates without meals, and average rates, by sex and race, South and West, May 1945

Area, sex, and race	Hour rates without		Day rates without	
	meals 1/		meals 1/	
	Number of workers	Average rate	Number of workers	Average rate
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
<u>South</u>				
Male	184,000	.31	532,000	2.55
White	150,000	.31	221,000	2.80
Nonwhite	34,000	.31	311,000	2.40
Female	39,000	.26	226,000	1.95
White	15,000	.26	41,000	2.50
Nonwhite	24,000	.26	185,000	1.85
<u>West</u>				
Male	186,000	.75	29,000	4.50
White	166,000	.75		
Nonwhite	20,000	.73		
Female	21,000	.72	8,000	3.90
White	13,000	.74		
Nonwhite	8,000	.69		

1/ Includes some workers receiving one meal per day.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 28.--Percentage distribution of hired farm workers by specified  
perquisite items received, United States and major regions,  
May 1945

Perquisite item <u>1/</u>	: United : States Percent	: North- : east Percent	: North : Central Percent	: South : : Percent	: West : Percent
Total workers	100	100	100	100	100
With house	32	23	25	41	19
With lodging	21	33	38	7	36
Without house or lodging	47	44	37	52	45
Not furnished meals <u>2/</u>	78	61	51	87	82
With house	30	21	23	38	17
With lodging	5	1	<u>3/</u>	1	21
Without house or lodging	43	39	28	48	44
Furnished meals <u>4/</u>	22	39	49	13	18
With house	2	2	2	3	2
With lodging	16	32	38	6	15
Without house or lodging	4	5	9	4	1

1/ In addition to these items, many workers received other types of perquisites. More detailed information on perquisites will be published in a later report.

2/ Includes some workers receiving one meal per day.

3/ Less than 0.5 percent.

4/ Two or more regular meals per day.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 29.--Percentage distribution of male hired farm workers not employed in crews, by age, United States and major regions, March and May 1945

Age	: United		: Northeast		: North		: South		: West	
	: States		: Northeast		: Central		: South		: West	
	: May	: March	: May	: March	: May	: March	: May	: March	: May	: March
	:20-26	:18-24	:20-26	:18-24	:20-26	:18-24	:20-26	:18-24	:20-26	:18-24
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total with age reported <sup>1/</sup>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Under 18 years <sup>2/</sup>	17	11	14	12	17	9	20	14	12	7
18 - 24	16	17	20	24	20	21	14	14	12	9
25 - 34	20	24	23	22	19	24	19	24	19	23
35 - 44	18	19	16	15	16	17	19	20	20	24
45 - 64	23	24	20	20	21	23	23	23	32	33
65 and over	6	5	7	7	7	6	5	5	5	4

<sup>1/</sup> Information on age was not requested for workers employed in crews and for this reason male crew workers in May and in March are excluded from this table. In addition approximately 87,000 male custom workers in May and 27,000 in March are excluded.

<sup>2/</sup> Eighty-three percent of the male hired farm workers under 18 years of age were 14 years old or over in May and 90 percent of the male hired workers under 18 were 14 years old or over in March.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 30.-Average hourly, daily, and weekly cash wages, average hours and days worked during week, for hired farm workers by relationship to farm operator, United States and major regions, March 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Area and relationship	Cash wages earned			Time worked		
	March 18-24, 1945			March 18-24, 1945		
	(on reporting farm)			(on reporting farm)		
	Hourly	Daily	Weekly	Hours per day	Days per week	Hours per week
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Number	Number
<u>United States</u>						
Son or daughter	.22	2.40	14.50	10.6	6.1	65
Other relative	.27	2.60	12.70	9.7	4.9	48
No relation, non-crew worker	.35	3.30	15.60	9.4	4.8	45
Crew worker <sup>2/</sup>	.49	3.50	18.30	7.2	5.2	38
<u>Northeast</u>						
Son or daughter	.22	2.30	15.40	10.6	6.6	70
Other relative	.29	2.80	16.80	9.4	6.1	56
No relation, non-crew worker	.36	3.50	20.40	9.7	5.8	56
Crew worker <sup>2/</sup>	.56	4.80	24.10	8.6	5.0	43
<u>North Central</u>						
Son or daughter	.18	2.10	13.30	11.2	6.5	73
Other relative	.23	2.40	14.20	10.6	5.9	62
No relation, non-crew worker	.32	3.20	17.30	9.9	5.5	54
Crew worker <sup>2/</sup>	.35	3.00	12.50	8.7	4.2	36
<u>South</u>						
Son or daughter	.22	1.90	8.50	8.8	4.4	39
Other relative	.24	2.10	7.80	8.9	3.7	33
No relation, non-crew worker	.28	2.60	10.80	9.2	4.2	39
Crew worker <sup>2/</sup>	.35	3.00	15.00	8.4	5.1	43
<u>West</u>						
Son or daughter	.46	4.50	27.30	9.8	6.1	60
Other relative	.49	4.50	26.30	9.2	5.8	54
No relation, non-crew worker	.61	5.60	31.40	9.1	5.6	51
Crew worker <sup>2/</sup>	.69	4.00	21.60	5.8	5.5	31

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes approximately 30,000 custom workers since hire of machinery, equipment or workstock was included in their reported cash wages.

<sup>2/</sup> Relationship to farm operator not asked for crew workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 31.—Average hourly and weekly cash wages and hours worked during week, for regular 1/ hired farm workers paid specified types of wage rates, United States and major regions, March and May 1945

Area, type of wage rate, and date	:Number of regular:	Hourly	: Weekly	: Hours
	: hired workers	: cash	: cash	: worked
	: paid specified	: wages	: wages	: per
	: type of rate	: earned	: earned	: week
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Number</u>
<u>United States</u>				
Month without meals <u>2</u> /				
May 20-26	145,000	.38	25.10	66
March 18-24	150,000	.35	23.00	65
Month with meals <u>3</u> /				
May 20-26	172,000	.24	17.10	71
March 18-24	166,000	.22	15.50	69
Week without meals <u>2</u> /				
May 20-26	91,000	.42	25.20	60
March 18-24	82,000	.36	21.00	59
Day without meals <u>2</u> /				
May 20-26	211,000	.29	15.10	52
March 18-24	213,000	.31	13.00	42
Hour without meals <u>2</u> /				
May 20-26	89,000	.58	29.70	51
March 18-24	104,000	.59	28.70	49
<u>Northeast</u>				
Month with meals <u>3</u> /				
May 20-26	29,000	.18	12.50	71
March 18-24	30,000	.19	13.10	71
Week without meals <u>2</u> /				
May 20-26	27,000	.48	29.90	62
March 18-24	25,000	.42	27.10	64
Week with meals <u>3</u> /				
May 20-26	25,000	.25	16.50	65
March 18-24	21,000	.22	14.50	67
<u>North Central</u>				
Month without meals <u>2</u> /				
May 20-26	49,000	.33	24.60	74
March 18-24	57,000	.32	22.40	71
Month with meals <u>3</u> /				
May 20-26	93,000	.21	15.80	75
March 18-24	89,000	.19	13.90	74
Day without meals <u>2</u> /				
May 20-26	24,000	.30	17.90	59
March 18-24	23,000	.33	15.00	46
Hour without meals <u>2</u> /				
March 18-24	25,000	.55	25.80	47

Continued

Table 31.--Average hourly and weekly cash wages and hours worked during week, for regular 1/ hired farm workers paid specified types of wage rates, United States and major regions, March and May 1945 (Cont'd)

Area, type of wage rate, and date	Number of regular:	Hourly	Weekly	Hours
	: hired workers	: cash	: cash	: worked
	: paid specified	: wages	: wages	: per
	: type of rate	: earned	: earned	: week
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Number</u>
<u>South</u>				
Month without meals <u>2/</u>				
May 20-26	52,000	.30	18.30	62
March 18-24	48,000	.26	15.70	60
Week without meals <u>2/</u>				
May 20-26	41,000	.37	21.20	58
March 18-24	40,000	.28	15.70	56
Day without meals <u>2/</u>				
May 20-26	167,000	.26	13.20	50
March 18-24	169,000	.26	10.80	41
<u>West</u>				
Month without meals <u>2/</u>				
May 20-26	28,000	.65	38.90	60
March 18-24	31,000	.57	35.10	61
Month with meals <u>3/</u>				
May 20-26	33,000	.42	28.20	67
March 18-24	26,000	.45	28.60	64
Hour without meals <u>2/</u>				
May 20-26	34,000	.78	44.90	58
March 18-24	41,000	.76	39.50	52

1/ Workers the farmer reported he would employ for 150 days or more during 1945.

2/ Includes some workers receiving one meal per day.

3/ Two or more regular meals per day.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 32.-Average hourly and weekly cash wages and hours worked during week, for seasonal 1/ hired farm workers, paid specified types of wage rates, United States and major regions, March and May 1945

Area, type of wage rate and date	:Number of seasonal: Hourly : Weekly : Hours			
	: hired workers	: cash	: cash	: worked
	: paid specified	: wages	: wages	: per
	: type of rate	: earned	: earned	: week
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Number</u>
<u>United States</u>				
Day without meals <u>2/</u>				
May 20-26	644,000	.25	7.60	30
March 18-24	214,000	.30	7.70	26
Hour without meals <u>2/</u>				
May 20-26	404,000	.55	21.50	39
March 18-24	246,000	.55	19.40	36
<u>Northeast 3/</u>				
<u>North Central</u>				
Day without meals <u>2/</u>				
May 20-26	26,000	.35	12.20	35
Day with meals <u>4/</u>				
May 20-26	24,000	.31	11.20	36
Hour without meals <u>2/</u>				
May 20-26	28,000	.48	14.80	31
<u>South</u>				
Day without meals <u>2/</u>				
May 20-26	589,000	.23	6.80	29
March 18-24	186,000	.26	6.50	25
Day with meals <u>4/</u>				
May 20-26	54,000	.24	8.30	34
March 18-24	24,000	.28	7.00	25
Hour without meals <u>2/</u>				
May 20-26	195,000	.29	9.60	33
March 18-24	99,000	.40	17.50	44
<u>West</u>				
Day without meals <u>2/</u>				
May 20-26	21,000	.47	19.50	42
Hour without meals <u>2/</u>				
May 20-26	166,000	.76	36.80	48
March 18-24	128,000	.70	22.10	31

1/ Workers the farmer reported he would employ less than 150 days during 1945. This group includes some workers for whom expected duration of employment was not reported, the majority of whom were short-time seasonal laborers working in crews for whom this information was not requested.

2/ Includes some workers receiving one meal per day.

3/ Averages not shown because of the small number of seasonal workers paid each type of wage rate in this region.

4/ Two or more regular meals per day.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 33.-Percentage distribution of regular and seasonal hired farm workers by specified perquisite items received, United States and major regions, May 1945

Perquisite item	: United States :		: North-east :		: North Central :		: South :		: West :	
	: Sea-Reg-ular :		: Sea-Reg-ular :		: Sea-Reg-ular :		: Sea-Reg-ular :		: Sea-Reg-ular :	
	: 1/2/ :		: 1/2/ :		: 1/2/ :		: 1/2/ :		: 1/2/ :	
	Pct. Pct.		Pct. Pct.		Pct. Pct.		Pct. Pct.		Pct. Pct.	
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total workers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
With house	47	22	26	14	33	7	66	29	40	10
With lodging	29	15	42	16	47	21	11	5	32	37
Without house or lodging	24	63	32	70	20	72	23	66	28	53
Not furnished meals 2/	64	87	52	78	46	62	81	90	64	90
With house	42	21	24	13	31	7	59	28	34	9
With lodging	1	8	4/	1	4/	-	1	1	3	29
Without house or lodging	21	58	28	64	15	55	21	61	27	52
Furnished meals 5/	36	13	48	22	54	38	19	10	36	10
With house	5	1	2	1	2	4/	7	1	6	1
With lodging	28	7	42	15	47	21	10	4	29	8
Without house or lodging	3	5	4	6	5	17	2	5	1	1

1/ Workers the farmer reported he would employ for 150 days or more during 1945.

2/ Workers the farmer reported he would employ less than 150 days during 1945. This group includes some workers for whom expected duration of employment was not reported, the majority of whom were short-time seasonal laborers working in crews, for whom this information was not requested.

3/ Includes some workers receiving one meal per day.

4/ Less than 0.5 percent.

5/ Two or more regular meals per day.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

## APPENDIX A. COMPARABILITY OF SURVEY ESTIMATES WITH OTHER AVAILABLE STATISTICS <sup>1/</sup>

The three national enumerative surveys of farm wages and wage rates in March, May, and September 1945 are a new part of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics farm wage statistics work. There are important differences in the nature of the wage data obtained in these surveys from data previously available. These differences are discussed in this Appendix to afford a basis for correct interpretation of the new survey estimates which have been presented in this report.

### 1. Individual worker basis for average wage rates

An important departure from previous farm wage statistics in the new surveys is that wage and related information is obtained from the farmer for each hired worker employed on his farm during the reporting week. This permits the computation of average wage rates on an individual worker basis. In the regularly issued BAE series on farm wage rates, the averages presented are based on an average reported for his locality by each of a group of farmers known as "Crop Reporters," who are sent mail questionnaires.

There are several reasons why wage information is obtained on an individual farm and worker basis in the new surveys. An important one is that the farmers' answers provide data on something which has actually occurred - his own employing of an individual at a specified wage rate in a specified week. The farmer can report this more accurately than the level of farm wage rates being paid on other farms.

Another reason for obtaining information on wage rates paid individual workers is to get the distribution of workers by amount of wage rate, in order to show wage rate variation as well as wage rate averages. These distributions provide a picture of the wage structure in agriculture. Similar information has been available for a long time for nonagricultural industries, but not for agriculture.

### 2. Hourly and daily equivalent cash wages for varying types of rates

In the new surveys, information is obtained on the time worked and cash wages received during the reporting week by each hired worker employed on the farm during that week in addition to the worker's wage rate. This permits converting any type of rate into its hourly or daily equivalent cash wage so that an average wage can be computed for a group of workers paid different types of rates. In turn, this permits wage comparisons among groups of hired workers classified according to age, sex, race, type of work, duration of employment, etc. which are essential for analysis of wage differentials in agriculture.

Certain technical questions have arisen in the matter of method of computation of these average equivalent hourly and daily cash wages. As in the case of most farm wage statistics, average wages are used

<sup>1/</sup> Appendixes A and B are reproduced with slight modifications from Report No. 4 of this series.



both to indicate the wage cost to farmers and the wage income to farm laborers. For the first use, an average weighted by time worked at that wage provides the best measure of wage costs to the farmer per hour or day of hired labor. For the second use, the ideal average would be one weighted by the workers receiving each level of wages, providing it involved no duplication of workers who work for wages on more than one farm during the week, since the purpose of the average is to summarize the distribution of workers by amount of wages received. Information on wages and time worked obtained from reports of farmers for workers hired by the farmer during a specified week provides the basis for the first type of average. For the second type, namely, an average weighted by workers, employer reports may not be satisfactory, since a farmer's report on any hired worker who worked on two farms during the week is in effect weighted twice as much as it should be, and his report on these workers who worked on three or more farms is even more heavily overweighted. The overweighting would not lead to any bias if it were not for the fact that the workers who are overweighted are usually seasonal workers who work for very short periods at higher hourly wages.

For the week of March 18-24, differences between average hourly and daily cash wages computed on the two bases were appreciable, but not large. Because the number of hired workers who are employed on two or more farms during the week was expected to increase during the more active part of the season, the time-weighted rather than the worker-weighted averages were adopted for general use in this series of reports. In this report of results from the survey covering the week of May 20-26, (Report No. 7) all averages shown for hourly and daily cash wages are weighted on a time-input basis.

### 3. Types of wage rates

The historical series of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on farm wage rates have included four types which are used in construction of the index of farm wage rates - rates per month with and without board and rates per day with and without board. These series on month and day rates covered directly 54 percent of the hired workers in March and 60 percent in May. An additional percentage may have been covered indirectly. 2/ In the Northeast and West, the most prevalent rates have not been included in the series - weekly rates in the Northeast (received by 36 percent of hired workers in March and by 33 percent in May) and hourly rates in the West (received by 61 percent in March and by 47 percent in May). 3/

Because "board" has not been defined, average rates in the historical series are not precisely comparable with those obtained from the new surveys. Since most workers (86 percent in March, 81 percent in

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2/ Piece rates are indirectly covered through an instruction to the Crop Reporter to include average daily earnings of piece workers in reporting the average day rate. In March 1945, 8 percent of the workers covered in the survey were paid piece rates, and in May 4 percent.

3/ Some indirect influence of hourly rates on the reported day rates may arise in situations where the respondents convert hourly rates to an equivalent day rate. However, Crop Reporters are not instructed to make such a conversion.



May) who received 2 or more regular meals per day also received lodging or housing, their rates of pay can be used for approximate comparisons with the "with board" rates of the historical series.

The classification of wage rates for a given unit of time into those with meals furnished and those without meals is only tentative. The criterion or criteria of classification should be chosen which best separates workers receiving a higher value of nonmoney wage from those receiving a lower value. A special study on value of perquisites in connection with the May national survey will provide information for determining the criteria. For example, if it is found that workers receiving a house but not meals have an average value of perquisites more similar to that for workers receiving meals than to that for workers not receiving meals or a house, their rates may be grouped with those for workers receiving meals in computing averages.

#### 4. Coverage of hired farm workers underlying wage estimates

The wage statistics in this report relate to hired farm workers as defined in this section, with differences noted between the hired farm employment underlying these estimates and the coverage of other data or estimates on hired farm employment. In these surveys, everyone was considered a hired worker who did any farm work for cash wages on the reporting farms during the week of March 18-24. There is little question about who is a hired farm worker in the majority of cases, but there are a number of marginal or borderline situations.

There are three respects with regard to which criteria must be set for determining whether a person should be considered as a hired farm worker for a given time period: (1) the nature of the work, (2) the type of remuneration for the work, and (3) the amount of work. Farm work in the new wage surveys was defined somewhat broadly, including maintenance and repair of farm buildings and machinery and preparation of farm products for market done on the farm, but excluding other white collar employees, such as bookkeepers and typists on large farms, or other skilled workers, such as stone masons or well-drillers. 4/

4/ The following instruction was given to enumerators. "Farm work is work done on a farm, on a custom, contract, or other basis, in connection with the production (for home use or for sale), harvesting, preparation for market or delivery to market of agricultural products. Work done on the farm by a farm laborer in construction, repair, maintenance, or improvement of farm buildings, fences, machinery, etc., is to be included as farm work. However, do not include such work as that of a skilled carpenter or stone mason hired to construct a farm building, or the work of a well-driller engaged in drilling a well for a farmer, or the work of a commercial trucker in hauling agricultural products to market. Do not include as farm work any housework, or canning primarily for home consumption. For the purpose of this survey, persons are to be considered as hired farm workers who are employed in the packing of fruits or vegetables in a packing house or packing shed located on this farm or operated by this farmer primarily for packing produce from his own farm."

Persons doing farm work were considered "hired farm workers" if they were to be paid cash wages during the week. For example, if a son of the farmer did some farm chores regularly each day, but also worked for cash wages on one or two days during the week he was considered a hired farm worker. If a sharecropper or tenant of the farm operator did any work during the week for pay on the landlord's home farm, he was considered a hired farm worker. However, if a person worked on the farm, but did not receive cash wages, being remunerated with house, lodging, food products, or some small share of the crops or livestock, he was not classified as a hired farm worker. If a farmer reported that he had some custom work done on his farm during the week, the worker or workers involved were considered hired farm workers and included in the employment estimates. However, if the wage rate paid them included the rent of machinery, equipment, or livestock, these wage rates and wages earned were specifically identified on the schedule and were not used in obtaining averages, because they included remuneration for services other than labor.

Since reports were obtained on each person who did any hired farm work at all on the reporting farm during the reporting week, the resulting employment levels differ in certain respects from other statistics on hired farm employment. There is no exclusion of persons working less than 2 days on the reporting farm in the new surveys, although such an exclusion is called for in the establishment reports of the recent Censuses of Agriculture and the BAE employment series based on information from Crop Reporters. All establishment-reported statistics (including those from the new wage surveys) differ from employment statistics derived from a classification of all the population, such as used in the 1940 Population Census or the current Census labor force series. Establishment statistics on hired farm employment include a duplicate count of persons who worked on more than one farm during the week for wages and include persons whose major activity during the week may have been something other than hired farm work, which would mean a different classification of these persons in the population and labor force series. <sup>5/</sup>

The employment estimates presented in this report have not been adjusted to the level of any other series. Nevertheless, the estimates of the total number of hired workers in the United States for March 18-24, and for May 20-26 from the new surveys are very close to the estimates for April 1 and June 1 in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics series on farm employment based on information from Crop Reporters (table 34). At the regional level, however, there are substantial differences in the two sets of estimates at each of the two dates and also in the rate of seasonal change. The enumerative estimates are substantially lower than estimates based on Crop Reporter data in the Northeast and North Central and higher than Crop Reporter estimates in the South and West. A factor making for the difference in levels is

<sup>5/</sup> Another minor difference in coverage of hired workers is that Censuses of Agriculture exclude persons under 14 years of age, as do the population and labor force series, whereas the new surveys and the BAE series have no exclusion on the basis of age. However, only about 1 percent of the hired farm workers covered in the March 1945 and 3 percent in the May survey were less than 14 years old.



Table 34.-Comparison of Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates of hired farm workers derived from the March and May 1945 wage survey enumeration with estimates based on information from Crop Reporters, United States and major regions 1/

Area	Enumerative survey		Estimates based on Crop	
	estimates		Reporter data <u>2/</u>	
	March	May		
	18-24,	20-26,	April 1,	June 1,
	1945	1945	1945	1945
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>
United States	1,633,000	2,331,000	1,660,000	2,357,000
Northeast	147,000	186,000	206,000	305,000
North Central	330,000	384,000	360,000	495,000
South	860,000	1,304,000	813,000	1,142,000
West	293,000	457,000	281,000	416,000

1/ See accompanying text for differences in coverage of the two types of estimates.

2/ As published in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics monthly report, FARM LABOR.



the difference in coverage between the two sets of estimates. Persons working less than 2 days during the week are excluded in the Crop Reporter series. Other factors are also involved in the differences between the two types of estimates, including differences in sampling and estimating procedures, differences in the week to which the estimates relate, and the use of an explicit definition of farm work in the enumerative surveys. The employment estimates derived from the enumerative farm wage surveys represent one approach in the work being done by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on improving the current measurement of agricultural employment.

#### 5. Differentiation of "regular" and "seasonal" hired farm workers

Differentiation of hired farm workers into seasonal and regular workers and information on the wages and wage rates of these two groups have not previously been available. The Census of Agriculture supplied information on the numbers of workers hired by month and by the day or week, and also information on the total wages paid during a year to such groups of workers. For want of direct information, the report on workers hired by the month has frequently been used as an approximation to year-round hired workers, but it is not entirely satisfactory.

The important criterion in classification of hired farm workers into regular and seasonal is not the nature of the work performed by the worker, but rather the duration of his employment on one farm. A great part of agricultural work is "seasonal." For example, land preparation is seasonal work in the early spring, cultivating is seasonal work in late spring and early summer, and harvest operations are seasonal work, usually later in the year. All of these operations may be performed on certain farms by regular workers who are employed for all or the greater part of the year, while any of the operations may be performed on other farms by seasonal workers hired for only a limited time. Since hired farm workers cannot be classified into regular and seasonal according to the type of farm work reported for one week, the new surveys are obtaining information on the total number of days during the year for which the farm operator expected to have work for each of his workers. The information provided the basis for grouping workers into several classes as shown in the tables, according to the length of time work on this farm will be available for them, regardless of whether they choose to stay on the farm or seek some other job.

Classification of workers according to duration of employment on a given farm has a definite advantage over asking the farmer himself for a classification into "seasonal" and "regular." The great regional and locality differences in the terminology used by farmers means that direct questions such as "Is this a seasonal worker?" may be interpreted very differently.

## APPENDIX B

### METHOD OF MAKING THE SURVEY

The three national surveys of farm wages and wage rates in March, May, and September 1945 made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics were enumerative surveys, each involving visits by enumerators to a sample of 20,000 farm operators throughout the country.

#### 1. Design of the sample

The sample of farm operators for enumeration in the wage survey was selected in two steps. First a sample of 158 counties throughout the country was chosen and next a sample of farm operators in each of these counties was chosen. Sampling methods were used in choosing the 158 counties to permit the development of estimates both by 4 major regions composed of groups of States as shown in table 1 and also for 7 major type-of-farming regions in the country. 1/ The methods provided for representation of the various geographic areas of the country and also for representation of groups of counties classified according to their agricultural characteristics. The 158 counties selected include 101 counties used as a general-purpose sample by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and 57 additional counties covered in the farm wage surveys. 2/

The distribution among regions of the 101 counties of the general-purpose sample is approximately the same as the percentage distribution of farms among regions. As the Northeast and West each have only about 10 percent of the farms of the country, they have only about 10 percent each of the 101 sample counties as compared with about 45 percent in the South and 35 percent in the North Central. Therefore, to obtain satisfactory estimates by regions, it was necessary to add to the number of sample counties in the Northeast and West. This meant that sampling was done at a heavier rate in the Northeast and West, regions in which hired farm workers make up larger proportions of the entire farm working force than in the case of other regions. The 158 counties included in the survey are shown in the attached map.

1/ Wage estimates by major type-of-farming regions will be presented in a later report.

2/ For detailed accounts of the methods used in selecting the counties, see the following mimeographed publications of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics:

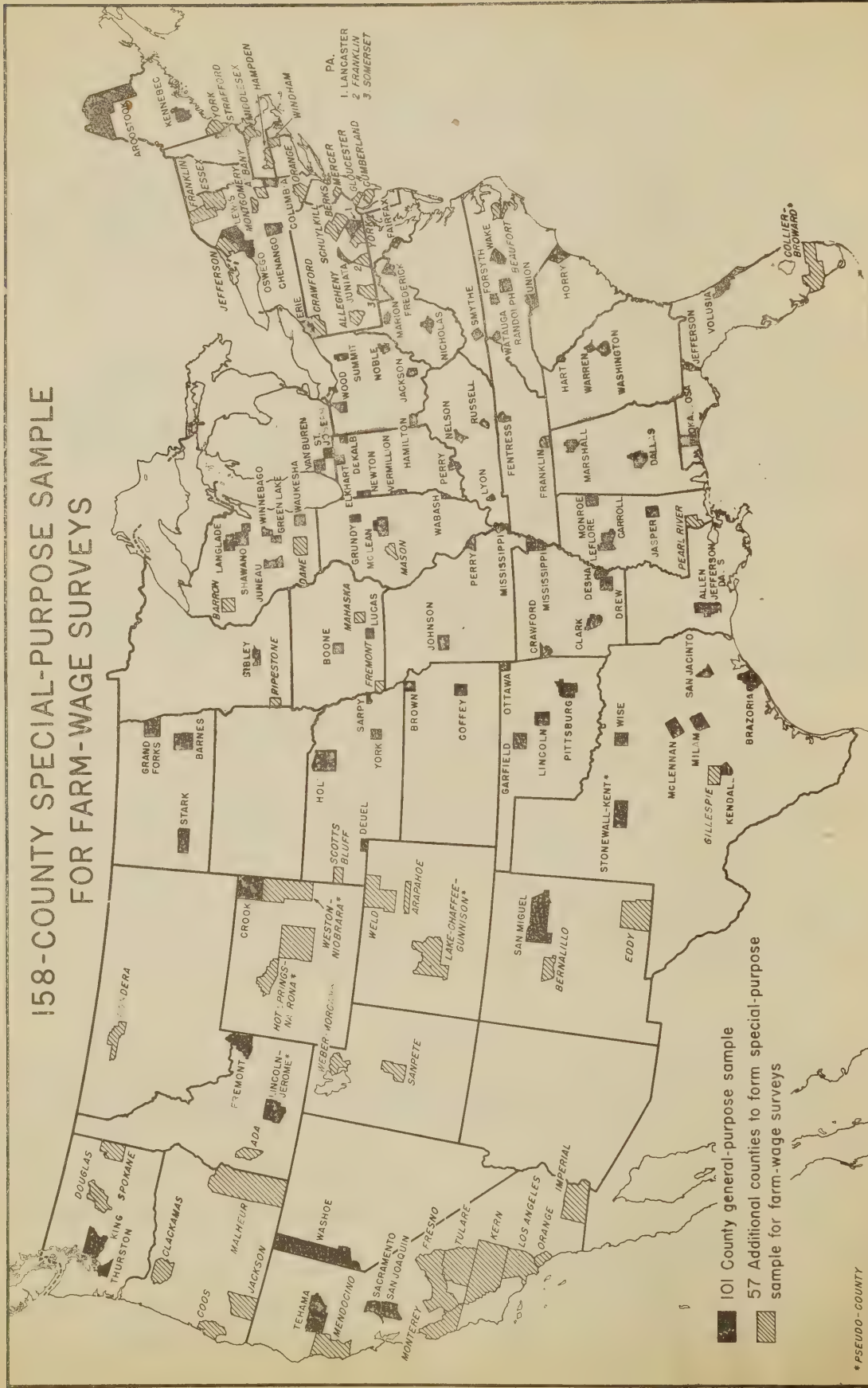
"The Bureau of Agricultural Economics General-Purpose Sample of 101 Counties"

"Technical Supplement to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics General Purpose Sample of 101 Counties"

"The Bureau of Agricultural Economics Special-Purpose Sample of 158 Counties for Farm-Wage Surveys"

See also Margaret Jarman Hagood and Eleanor H. Bernert, "Component Indexes as a Basis for Stratification in Sampling," Journal of the American Statistical Association, September 1945.

# 158-COUNTY SPECIAL-PURPOSE SAMPLE FOR FARM-WAGE SURVEYS



- 101 County general-purpose sample
- 57 Additional counties to form special-purpose sample for farm-wage surveys

\* PSEUDO-COUNTY



After the sample counties were selected, sampling rates for farms within the counties were determined in such a way as to make the results self-weighting within each major region and to provide that reports would be obtained on a sufficient number of hired workers to afford wage estimates by regions. When the percentage of farms to be sampled in each of the 158 counties had been determined, the selection of these farms was made according to the master sample techniques. <sup>3/</sup> For each county a map was prepared with a certain fraction of the area of the county designated as sample "segments" for the survey. These maps were sent to the local supervisors in the county with the instruction that every farm was to be included in the survey which had its headquarters within the designated sample segments.

## 2. Enumerative Procedures

For each of the 158 counties included in the wage surveys a local supervisor was employed who, along with one or more enumerators, visited the farm operators in the sample and obtained the wage information. Materials supplied these supervisors and enumerators included, in addition to the maps, schedules used in the survey and explicit instructions on the information desired and on how to proceed to get the information. The enumerators started visiting the sample farmers on the Monday following the week for which the report on wages was to be obtained. The visits to all sample farms in a county were usually completed within 1 or 2 weeks.

## 3. Reliability of Sample Estimates

The number of farms surveyed, the number reporting hired labor, and the number of hired workers reported are shown in table 35, along with the expansion factors used in each region. The expansion factors show the heavier rates of sampling in the Northeast and the West, where 1 out of every 97 and 1 out of every 134 farms were sampled than in the North Central and the South where only 1 out of every 332 and 1 out of every 481 farms were sampled.

The number of hired workers reported on the sample farms for the week of May 20-26 in each region varied from 1,157 in the North Central to 3,407 in the West. These are the sample frequencies from which the averages shown in the various tables throughout this report have been computed. In most cases each table containing averages is accompanied by a table showing the percentage which workers underlying each average comprise of the region's total hired employment. This percentage can be taken of the number of workers in the sample shown in table 35 to indicate the number of workers involved in any average. In general the

<sup>3/</sup> The actual drawing of the sample within the counties was done by the Statistical Laboratory at Ames, Iowa. For description of the Master Sample techniques, see A. J. King, and R. J. Jessen, "The Master Sample of Agriculture, I. Development and Use, II Design," Journal of the American Statistical Association, March 1945, and R. J. Jessen and E. E. Houseman, "Statistical Investigations of Farm Sample Surveys taken in Iowa, Florida and California," cooperative bulletin of Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and Work Project Administration, Ames, Iowa, June 1944.



averages have not been shown where the number of workers in the group is less than 100, although there are certain exceptions where averages are shown for fewer than 100 workers.

All estimates based on sample surveys made by field enumeration or by mail questionnaires are subject to sampling error. Averages for groups containing small numbers of workers have larger sampling errors than those for groups with larger numbers of workers. Similarly the employment estimates for minor categories of workers, such as women and children, have relatively larger sampling errors than those for larger categories. In general, the estimated averages for wage rates, earnings, and time worked shown in this report have relatively smaller sampling errors than the estimates of the numbers of hired workers employed. This is true because of the variation among farms in the number of hired workers employed. Farms varied from none in the case of the majority of farms to over 600 on one farm surveyed, while the average number of hired workers per farm was only .41. In the case of wage rates, earnings and time worked, variation of individual workers from the averages was relatively much smaller.

Table 35.-Coverage of farms and hired workers in national enumerative farm wage survey conducted by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in 158 counties, May 1945

Area	Expansion factor	: of farms surveyed	: Farms reporting hired labor, May 20-26, 1945:			Hired workers reported, May 20-26, 1945		
			: In sample	: Number	: Percent of total	: In sample	: Number	: per farm reporting hired labor
			: Expanded	: Expanded		: Expanded		
United States		19,997	3,551	913,563	17.8	9,195	2,331,144	2.6
Northeast	96.8	4,683	1,006	97,381	21.5	1,918	185,662	1.9
North Central	332.0	5,595	809	268,588	14.5	1,157	384,124	1.4
South	480.7	5,975	908	436,476	15.2	2,713	1,304,139	3.0
West	134.2	3,744	828	111,118	22.1	3,407	457,219	4.1

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

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